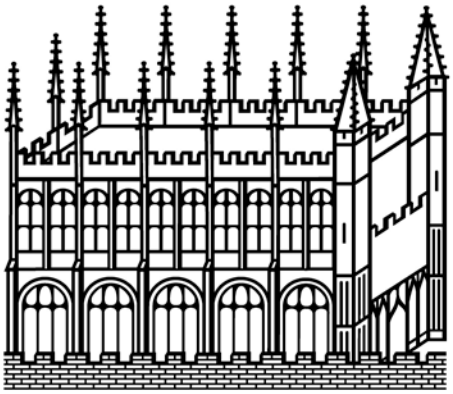
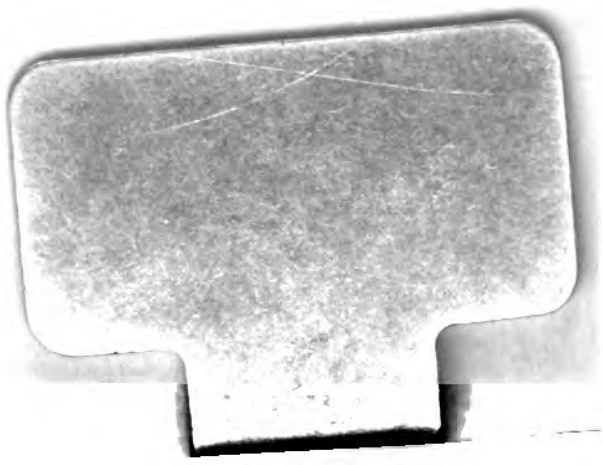


2527 f. 1465



THE

SURPRISING HISTORY

OF

JACK

AND

THE BEAN-STALK.

Embellished with Twelve Beautiful Coloured Engravings.

LONDON:

ORLANDO HODGSON,

21, MAIDEN LANE, WOOD STREET.

PRICE SIXPENCE.


135

JACK

AND THE

BEAN-STALK.

IN the days of King Alfred, there lived a poor woman, whose cottage was situated in a remote country village, a great many miles from London,

She had been a widow some years, and had an only child, named Jack, whom she indulged to a fault: the consequence of her blind partiality was, that Jack did not pay the least attention to any thing she said but was indolent, careless, and extravagant. His follies were not owing to a bad disposition, but that his mother had never checked him. By degrees, she disposed of all she possessed—scarcely any thing remained but a cow.

The poor woman one day met Jack with tears in her eyes; his distress was great, and, for the first time in her life, she could not help reproaching him, saying, "Oh! you wicked child, by your ungrateful course of life you have at last brought me to beggary and ruin!—Cruel, cruel boy! I

have not money enough to purchase even a bit of bread for another day—nothing now remains to sell but my poor cow! I am sorry to part with her; it grieves me sadly, but we must not starve."

For a few minutes, Jack felt a degree of remorse, but it was soon over, and he began teazing his mother to let him sell the cow at the next village, so much, that she at last consented.

As he was going along, he met a butcher, who enquired why he was driving the cow from home? Jack replied, he was going to sell it.—The butcher held some curious beans in his hat; they were of various colours, and attracted Jack's notice: this did not pass unnoticed by the butcher, who, knowing Jack's easy temper, thought now was the time to take an advantage of it, and determined not to let slip so good an opportunity, asked what was the price of the cow, offering at the same time all the beans in his hat for her. The silly boy could not conceal the pleasure he felt at what he supposed so great an offer; the bargain was struck instantly, and the cow exchanged for a few paltry beans. Jack made the best of his way home, calling aloud to his mother before he reached the house, thinking to surprise her.

When she saw the beans, and heard Jack's account, her patience quite forsook her; she kicked the beans away in a passion—they flew in all directions—some were scattered in the garden.

Not having any thing to eat, they both went supperless to bed.

Jack awoke very early in the morning, and seeing something uncommon from the window of his bedchamber, ran down stairs into the garden, where he soon discovered that some of the beans had taken root, and sprung up surprisingly: the stalks were of an immense thickness, and had so entwined, that they formed a ladder nearly like a chain in appearance.

Looking upwards, he could not discern the top, it appeared to be lost in the clouds: he tried it, found it firm, and not to be shaken. He quickly formed the resolution of endeavouring to climb up to the top, in order to seek his fortune, and ran to communicate his intention to his mother, not doubting but she would be equally pleased with himself. She declared he should not go; said it would break her heart, if he did—entreated, and threatened but all in vain,

Jack set out, and after climbing for some hours, reached the top of the bean-stalk, fatigued and quite exhausted. Looking around, he found himself in a strange country; it appeared to be a desert, quite barren; not a tree, shrub, house, or living creature to be seen; here and there were scattered fragments of stone; and, at unequal distances, small heaps of earth were loosely thrown together.

Jack seated himself pensively upon a block of stone, and thought of his mother—he reflected with sorrow on his disobedience in climbing the bean-stalk against her will; and concluded that he must die with hunger.

However he walked on, hoping to see a house where he might beg something to eat and drink; presently a handsome young woman appeared at a distance; as she approached, Jack could not help admiring how beautiful and lively she looked; she was dressed in the most elegant manner, and had a small white wand in her hand, on the top of which was a peacock of pure gold.

While Jack was looking with the greatest surprise at this charming female, she came up to him, and with a smile of the most bewitching sweetness, enquired how he came there. Jack related the circumstance of the bean-stalk. She asked him, if he recollected his father; he replied he did not; and added, there must be some mystery relating to him, because if he asked his mother who his father was, she always burst into tears, and appeared to be violently agitated, nor did she recover herself for some days after; one thing, however, he could not avoid observing upon these occasions, which was, that she always carefully avoided answering him, and even seemed afraid of speaking, as if there was some secret connected with his father's history which she must not disclose.

The young woman replied, "I will reveal the whole story; your mother must not. But, before I begin, I require a solemn promise on your part to do what I command; I am a fairy, and if you do not perform exactly what I desire, you will be destroyed. Jack was frightened at her menaces, but promised to fulfil her injunctions exactly, and the fairy thus addressed him:—

"Your father was a rich man, his disposition remarkably benevolent: he was very good to the poor, and constantly relieving them: he made it a rule never to let a day pass without doing good to some person. On one particular day in the week, he kept open house, and invited only those who were reduced and had lived well. He always presided himself, and did all in his power to render his guests comfortable; the rich and the great were not invited. The servants were all happy, and greatly attached to their master and mistress. Your father, though only a private gentleman, was as rich as a prince, and he deserved all he possessed, for he only lived to do good. Such a man was soon known and talked of. A giant lived a great many miles off; this man was altogether as wicked as your father was good: he was in his heart envious, covetous, and cruel; but he had the art of concealing those vices. He was poor, and wished to enrich himself at any rate.

"Hearing your father spoken of, he formed

the design of becoming acquainted with him, hoping to ingratiate himself into your father's favour. He removed quickly into your neighbourhood, caused it to be reported that he was a gentleman who had just lost all he possessed by an earthquake, and found it difficult to escape with his life; his wife was with him. Your father gave credit to his story, and pitied him; he gave him handsome apartments in his own house, and caused him and his wife to be treated like visitors of consequence, little imagining that the giant was meditating a horrid return for all his favours.

"Things went on this way for some time, the giant becoming daily more impatient to put his plan into execution; at last a favourable opportunity presented itself. Your father's house was at some distance from the sea-shore, but with a glass the coast could be seen distinctly. The giant was one day using the telescope; the wind was very high; he saw a fleet of ships in distress off the rocks; he hastened to your father, mentioned the circumstance, and eagerly requested he would send all the servants he could spare to relieve the sufferers.

"Every one was instantly dispatched, except the porter and your nurse; the giant then joined your father in the study, and appeared to be delighted—he really was so. Your father recommended a favourite book, and was handing it

down: the giant took the opportunity, and stabbed him; he instantly fell down dead. The giant left the body, found the porter and nurse, and presently dispatched them; being determined to have no living witnesses of his crimes.

"You were then only three months old; your mother had you in her arms in a remote part of the house, and was ignorant of what was going on; she went into the study, but how was she shocked, on discovering your father a corpse, and weltering in his blood! She was stupified with horror and grief, and was motionless. The giant, who was seeking her, found her in that state, and hastened to serve her and you as he had done her husband, but she fell at his feet, and in a pathetic manner besought him to spare your life and her's.

"Remorse, for a moment, seemed to touch the barbarian's heart: he granted your lives; but first he made her take a most solemn oath, never to inform you who your father was, or to answer any questions concerning him: assuring her, that if she did, he would certainly discover her, and put both of you to death in the most cruel manner. Your mother took you in her arms, and fled as quick as possible; she was scarcely gone, when the giant repented that he had suffered her to escape; he would have pursued her instantly, but he had to provide for his own safety; as it was necessary he should be

gone before the servants returned. Having gained your father's confidence, he knew were to find all his treasure: he soon loaded himself and his wife, set the house on fire in several places, and when the servants returned, the house was burned quite down to the ground.

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

"I became your father's guardian at his birth; but fairies have laws to which they are subject as well as mortals. A short time before the giant went to your father's, I transgressed; my punishment was a suspension of power for a limited time—an unfortunate circumstance, as it totally prevented my succouring your father.

"The day on which you met the butcher, as you went to sell your mother's cow, my power was restored. It was me who secretly prompted you to take the beans in exchange for the cow.

"By my power, the bean-stalk grew to so great a height, and formed a ladder. I need not add that I inspired you with a strong desire to ascend the ladder.

Poor Jack was half dead with fear, and would have given the world to have been with his mother again, for he now began to fear that he should never see her more, and gave himself up for lost; he even mistrusted the good woman, and thought she had let him into the house for no other purpose than to lock him up among the unfortunate people in the dungeon.

At the farther end of the gallery, there was a spacious kitchen, and a very excellent fire was burning in the grate. The good woman bid Jack sit down, and gave him plenty to eat and drink. Jack, not seeing any thing here to make him uncomfortable, soon forgot his fear, and was just beginning to enjoy himself, when he was aroused by a loud knocking at the street-door, which made the whole house shake; the giant's wife ran to secure him in the oven, and then went to let her husband in.

Jack heard him accost her in a voice like thunder, saying; "Wife, I smell fresh meat." "Oh! my dear," replied she, "it is nothing but the people in the dungeon." The giant appeared to believe her, and walked into the very kitchen where poor Jack was concealed, who shook, trembled and was more terrified than he had yet been.

At last, the monster seated himself quietly by the fire-side, whilst his wife prepared supper.

By degrees Jack recovered himself sufficiently to look at the giant through a small crevice: he was quite astonished to see what an amazing quantity he devoured, and thought he never would have done eating and drinking. When supper was ended, the giant desired his wife to bring him his hen. A very beautiful hen was then brought, and placed on the table before him. Jack's curiosity was very great to see what would happen:—he observed that every time the giant said "Lay!" the hen laid an egg of solid gold.

The giant amused himself a long time with his hen, meanwhile his wife went to bed. At length the giant fell asleep by the fire-side, and snored like the roaring of a cannon. At day-break, Jack, finding the giant still asleep, and not likely to awaken soon, crept softly out of his hiding-place, seized the hen, and ran off with her.

He met with some difficulty in finding his way out of the house, but at last he reached the road with safety; he easily found the way to the bean-stalk, and descended it better and quicker than he expected. His mother was overjoyed to see him; he found her crying bitterly, and lamenting his hard fate, for she concluded he had come to some shocking end through his rashness.

Jack was impatient to shew his hen, and inform his mother how valuable it was. "And

now, mother," said Jack, "I have brought home that which will quickly make us rich; and I hope to make you some amends for the affliction I have caused you through my idleness, extravagance, and folly."

The hen produced as many golden eggs as they desired; they sold them, and in a little time became possessed of as much riches as they wanted.

For some months, Jack and his mother lived very happily together; but he being very desirous of travelling, recollecting the fairy's commands, and fearing that if he delayed, she would put her threats into execution, longed to climb the bean-stalk, and pay the giant another visit, in order to carry away some more of his treasures; for, during the time that Jack was in the giant's mansion, whilst he lay concealed in the oven, he learned, from the conversation that took place between the giant and his wife, that he possessed some wonderful curiosities. Jack thought of his journey again and again, but still he could not summon resolution enough to break it to his mother, being well assured that she would endeavour to prevent his going. However, one day he told her boldly that he must take a journey up the bean-stalk; she begged and prayed him not to think of it, and tried all in her power to dissuade him: she told him that the giant's wife would certainly know him again, and

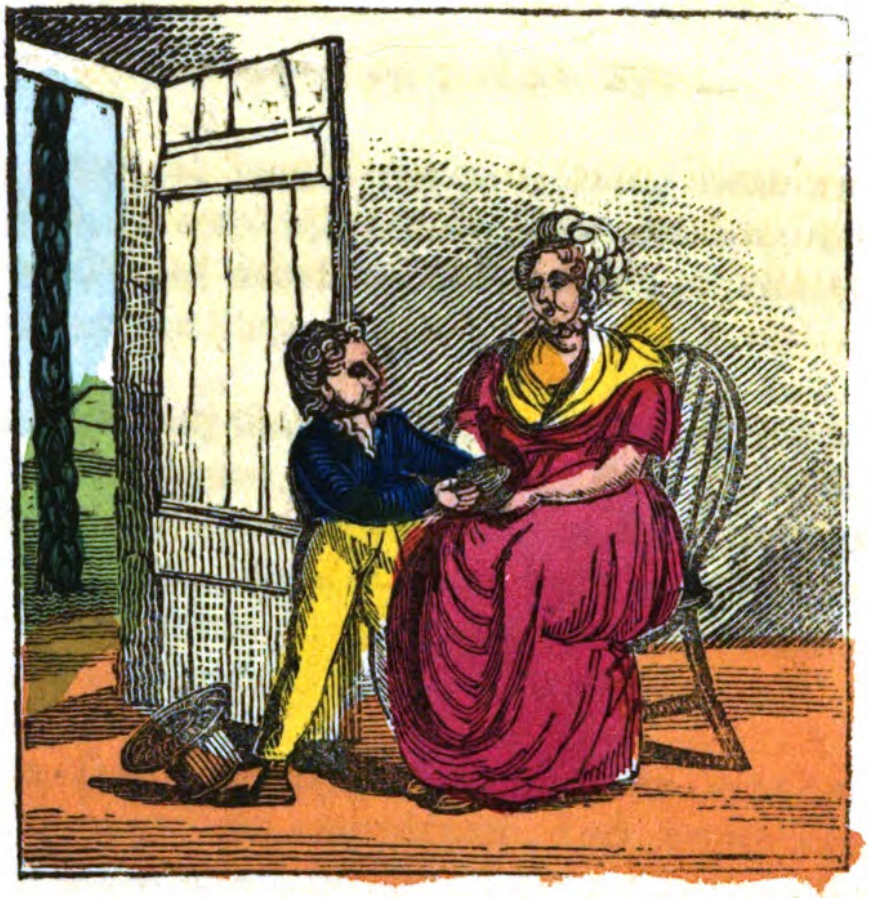
that the giant would desire nothing better than to get him into his power, that he might put him to a cruel death, in order to be revenged for the loss of his hen.

Jack, finding that all his arguments were useless pretended to give up the point, though resolved to go at all events. He had a dress prepared which would disguise him, and something to colour his skin; he thought it impossible for any one to recollect him in this dress.

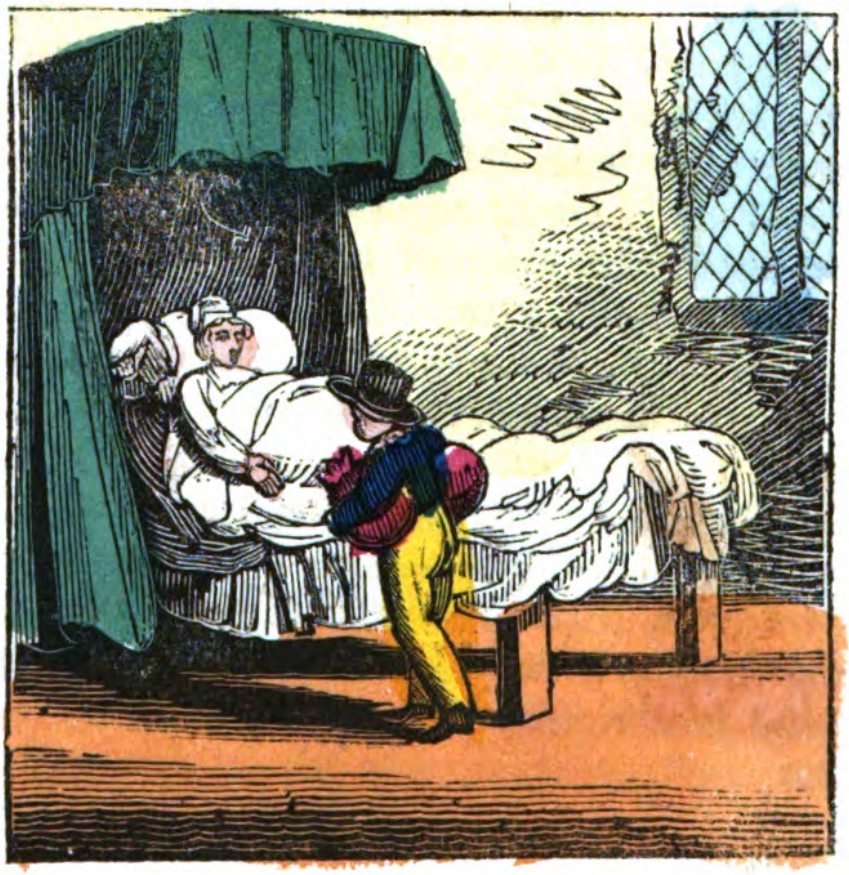
In a few mornings after this, he rose very early, changed his complexion, and, unperceived by any one, climbed the bean-stalk a second time. He was greatly fatigued when he reached the top, and very hungry.

Having rested some time on one of the stones, he pursued his journey to the giant's mansion. He reached it late in the evening; the woman was at the door as before. Jack addressed her, at the same time telling her a pitiful tale, and requesting that she would give him some victuals and drink, and also a night's lodging.

She told him (what he knew before very well) about her husband's being a powerful and cruel giant; and also that she one night admitted a poor, hungry, friendless boy, who was half dead with travelling: that the little ungrateful fellow had stolen one of the giant's treasures; and,



Jack's Return to his Mother.



Jack's Return with the Giant's Golden Bags.

ever since that, her husband had been worse than before, used her very cruelly, and continually upbraided her with being the cause of his loss.

Jack was at no loss to discover that he was attending to the account of a story in which he was the principal actor; he did his best to persuade the good woman to admit him, but found it a very hard task.

At last she consented, and as she led the way, Jack observed that every thing was just as he had found it before; she took him into the kitchen, and after he had done eating and drinking, she hid him in an old lumber-closet. The giant returned at the usual time, and walked in so heavily, that the house was shaken to the foundation. He seated himself by the fire, and soon after exclaimed, "Wife! I smell fresh meat!" The wife replied, it was the crows, who had brought a piece of raw meat, and left it on the top of the house.

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

The giant, at last, having ended his voracious supper, and eaten till he was quite satisfied, said to his wife—"I must have something to amuse me—either my bags of money or my harp."

After a great deal of ill-humour, and having teazed his wife some time, he commanded her to bring down his bags of gold and silver. Jack, as before, peeped out of his hiding-place, and presently his wife brought two bags into the room: they were of a very large size, one was filled with new guineas, and the other with new shillings.

They were both placed before the giant, who began reprimanding his poor wife most severely for staying so long; she replied, trembling with fear, that they were so heavy, that she could scarcely lift them; and concluded, at last, that she would never again bring them down stairs; adding that she had nearly fainted, owing to their weight.

This so exasperated the giant, that he raised his hand to strike her; she, however, escaped, and went to bed, leaving him to count over his treasure, by way of amusement.

The giant took his bags, and after turning them over and over, to see that they were in the same state he left them, began to count their contents. First, the bag which contained the

silver was emptied, and the contents placed upon the table. Jack viewed the glittering heaps with delight, and most heartily wished the contents in his own possession. The giant (little thinking he was so narrowly watched) reckoned the silver over several times: and then, having satisfied himself that all was safe put it into the bags again, which he made very secure.

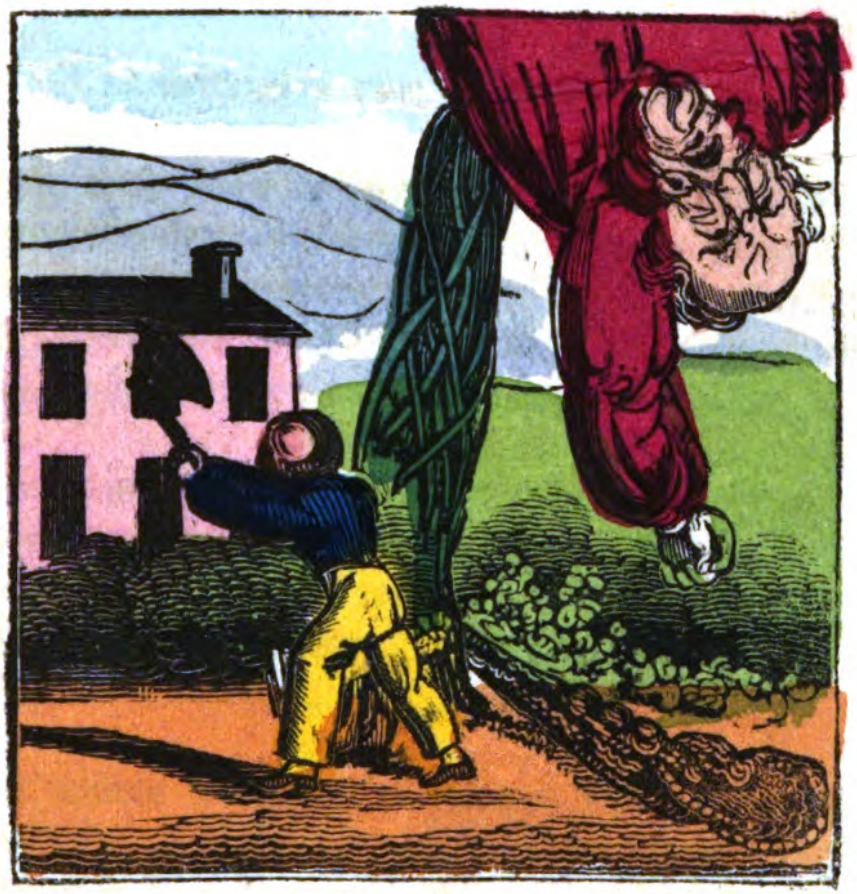
The other bag was opened next, and the guineas placed upon the table. If Jack was pleased at the sight of the silver, how much more delighted he felt when he saw such a heap of glittering gold? He even had the boldness to think of gaining both bags; but suddenly recollecting himself, he began to fear that the giant would sham sleep, the better to entrap any one who might be concealed.

When the giant had counted over the gold till he was tired, he put it up, if possible, more secure than he had put up the silver before; he then fell back on his chair by the fire-side, and fell asleep. He snored so loud, that Jack compared his noise to the roaring of the sea in a high wind, when the tide is coming in. At last, Jack concluded him to be asleep, and therefore secure, stole out of his hiding place, and approached the giant, in order to carry off the two bags of money; but, just as he laid his hand upon one of the bags, a little dog whom he had not perceived before, started from under the giant's chair, and

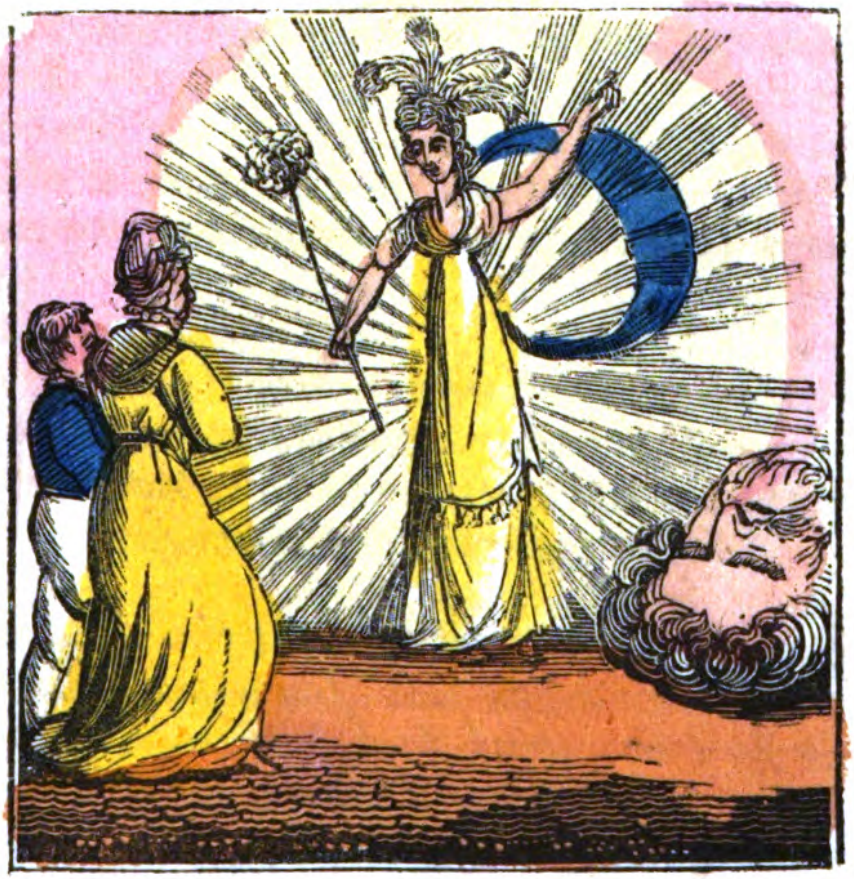
barked at Jack most furiously, who now gave himself up for lost; fear revetted him to the spot. Instead of endeavouring to escape, he stood still, though expecting his enemy to awake every instant. Contrary, however, to his expectation, the giant continued in a sound sleep, and the dog grew weary of barking. Jack now began to recollect himself, and on looking round saw a large piece of meat; this he threw to the dog, who instantly seized it, and took it into the lumber-closet, which Jack had just left.

Finding himself delivered from a noisy and troublesome enemy, and seeing the giant did not awake, Jack boldly seized the bags, and throwing them over his shoulders, ran out of the kitchen. He reached the street door in safety, and found it quite daylight. In his way to the top of the bean-stalk, he found himself greatly incommoded with the weight of the money bags; and really they were so heavy, that he could scarcely carry them.

Jack was overjoyed when he found himself near the bean-stalk; he soon reached the bottom, and immediately ran to seek his mother; to his great surprise, the cottage was deserted; he ran from one room to another, without being able to find any one; he then hastened into the village, hoping to see some of the neighbours, who could inform him where he could find his mother.



Jack chops down the Bean Stalk.



The Fairy gives good Advice to Jack.

An old woman at last directed him to a neighbouring house, where she was ill of a fever. He was greatly shocked on finding her apparently dying, and could scarcely bear his own reflections, on knowing himself to be the cause.

On being informed of our hero's safe return, his mother, by degrees, revived, and gradually recovered. Jack presented her his two valuable bags: they lived happy and comfortably; the cottage was rebuilt, and well furnished.

For three years Jack heard no more of the bean-stalk, but he could not forget it: though he feared making his mother unhappy; she would not mention the hated bean-stalk, lest it should remind him of taking another journey.

Notwithstanding the comforts Jack enjoyed at home, his mind dwelt continually upon the bean-stalk; for the fairy's menaces, in case of his disobedience, were ever present to his mind, and prevented him from being happy, he could think of nothing else. It was in vain endeavouring to amuse himself; he became thoughtful, and would arise at the first dawn of day, and view the bean-stalk for hours together.

His mother discovered that something preyed heavy upon his mind, and endeavoured to discover the cause; but Jack knew too well what the consequence would be, should he discover

the cause of his melancholy to her. He did his utmost, therefore, to conquer the great desire he had for another journey up the bean-stalk.

Finding, however, that his inclination grew too powerful for him, he began to make secret preparations for his journey, and, on the longest day, arose as soon as it was light, ascended the bean-stalk, and reached the top with some little trouble. He found the road, journey, &c. much as it was on the two former times; he arrived at the giant's mansion in the evening, and found his wife standing, as usual, at the door. Jack had disguised himself so completely, that she did not appear to have the least recollection of him; however, when he pleaded hunger and poverty in order to gain admittance, he found it very difficult indeed to persuade her. At last he prevailed, and was concealed in the copper.

When the giant returned, he said, "I smell fresh meat!" But Jack felt quite composed, as he had said so before, and had been soon satisfied; however the giant started up suddenly, and notwithstanding all his wife could say, he searched all around the room. Whilst this was going forward, Jack was exceedingly terrified, and ready to die with fear, wishing himself at home a thousand times; but when the giant approached the copper, and put his hand upon the lid, Jack thought his death was certain. The giant ended his search there, without moving the lid, and seated himself quietly by the fire-side.

This fright nearly overcome poor Jack; he was afraid of moving or even breathing, lest he should be discovered.

The giant at last eat a hearty supper; when he had finished, he commanded his wife to fetch down his harp. Jack peeped under the copper-lid, and soon saw the most beautiful harp that could be imagined; it was placed by the giant on the table, who said "Play!" and it instantly played of its own accord, without being touched. The music was uncommonly fine: Jack was delighted, and felt more anxious to get the harp into his possession, than either of the former treasures.

The giant's soul was not attuned to harmony, and the music soon lulled him into a sound sleep. Now therefore was the time to carry off the harp, as the giant appeared to be in a more profound sleep than usual. Jack soon determined, got out of the copper, and seized the harp. The harp was enchanted by a fairy: it called out loudly—"Master! master!"

The giant awoke, stood up, and tried to pursue Jack; but he had drank so much that he could hardly stand. Poor Jack ran as fast as he could; in a little time the giant recovered sufficiently to walk slowly, or rather to reel after him; had he been sober, he must have overtaken Jack instantly; but, as he then was, Jack con-

trived to be first at the top of the bean-stalk. The giant called after him in a voice like thunder, and sometimes was very near him.

The moment Jack got down the bean-stalk, he called out for a hatchet; one was brought him directly; just at that instant the giant was beginning to descend, but Jack, with his hatchet, cut the bean-stalk close off at the root, which made the giant fall headlong into the garden—the fall killed him, thereby releasing the world from a barbarous enemy.

Jack's mother was delighted when she saw the bean-stalk destroyed; at this instant the fairy appeared: she first addressed Jack's mother, and explained every circumstance relating to the journeys up the bean-stalk. The fairy then charged Jack to be dutiful to his mother, and to follow his father's good example, which was the only way to be happy. She then disappeared; he heartily begged hear pardon for all the sorrow and affliction he had caused her, promising, most faithfully, to be very dutiful and obedient to her for the future.

End of Jack and the Bean-Stalk.

RIQUET

WITH THE TUFT.

THERE was once upon a time a queen who had a little son; but he had a hump upon his back, which made him be named Riquet with the Tuft; and was besides so very ugly, that people hardly knew for a long time whether he had the form of a human creature.

A fairy, who by chance was present at the prince's birth, told his parents, that for all his ugliness, he would make himself pleasing to every one by his great wit and talents; and she said too this was not all, for she would also bestow on him the power of giving the very same charms to the person he should love best.

All this was some comfort to the queen, who was in great grief at the thought of having brought such a frightful little creature into the world. It is true, as soon as he began to talk he said the most charming things that could be; and all that he did was done in so clever and pleasant a manner, as made every body love and admire him.

Seven years after this, the queen of another kingdom was brought-to-bed of twin daughters. The one that was born first was more beautiful than the day; which caused the queen so very much joy, that it was like to put her health in danger.

The same fairy, who had been present at the birth of little Riquet with the Tuft, now chanced to be with this queen also at her lying-in; and to lessen the danger of her too great joy, she told her that the new-born princess should have no sense at all, but be as silly and stupid as she was handsome.

This grieved the queen very much; but in a few minutes she had still greater sorrow; for the second princess, when born, was the ugliest little thing that was ever beheld.

When the fairy saw the queen's distress at this she said to her—"I entreat your majesty, do not thus afflict yourself; your daughter shall possess so much wit, that nobody will perceive her want of beauty."

This would be a great comfort to me indeed," replied the queen; "but cannot you bestow a small share of the same charming talent on the princess who is so beautiful?"

"This is not in my power," answered the fairy, "I cannot meddle with her mind, but I can do

all I please with respect to her beauty; and therefore, as there is nothing that I would not do for your sake, I will bestow on her for a gift, that she shall be able to make the person whom she loves as handsome as she pleases."

As the two young ladies grew up, nothing was talked of but the beauty of the eldest, and the wit and talents of the youngest. It is true, their defects grew in the same degree; for the youngest became every day more ugly, and the eldest more senseless and stupid; she either did not reply at all to the questions that were asked of her, or spoke in as silly a manner as could be. She was so very awkward too, that if she had to place half a dozen tea-cups on the chimney piece, she was sure to break one of them; or if she tried to drink a glass of water, she spilt half of it upon her clothes.

Though beauty is a great charm to a young lady, yet the youngest princess was thought more of by every one than the eldest. To be sure, people went first to the eldest to see and admire her; but they soon left her, to hear the clever and pleasing talk of her sister; so that in less than a quarter of an hour, the eldest always found herself alone, while all strangers got as near as they could to the youngest.

Though the eldest was very stupid, yet she minded all this, and would gladly have parted

with her beauty to gain but half the wit of her sister. The queen, for all her good nature, could not help scolding her now and then for being so stupid, which made the poor princess ready to die of grief.

One day having walked to a wood not far off, where she might sit down and cry at her ease, for her hard fate without being seen, she saw a young man of small size, and very ugly, coming near to her; he was at the same time finely dressed. This was the young prince Riquet with the Tuft, who had fallen deeply in love with this princess, from the portraits he had every where seen of her, and had now left his father's kingdom to have the pleasure of seeing and talking with her.

He was charmed at meeting her alone, and went up to her, and spoke to her with great respect. Finding, after the first compliments were over, that she seemed very mournful, he said—

"I cannot think, madam, how a lady with so much beauty as you have can be so unhappy; for though I can boast of having seen a great number of handsome ladies, none of them could in the smallest degree compare with you."

"You are pleased to flatter me," replied the princess, without saying a word more.

"Beauty," answered Riquet with the Tuft, "is so great a charm, that it supplies the place

of every thing else; and she who owns so great a blessing, ought to be careless of every kind of misfortune."

"I would much rather," said the princess, "be as ugly as you are, and possess wit, than have the beauty you praise, and be such a fool as I am."

"Nothing, madam," replied the prince, "is a surer mark of good sense, than to believe ourselves in want of it; indeed, the more sense we possess, the plainer we see how much we fall short of being perfect."

"I know nothing of what you are talking of," answered the princess, "I only know that I am very foolish, and that is the cause of my grief."

"If that is all that makes you unhappy, madam," said the prince, "I can very soon put an end to your sorrow."

"By what means, pray?" asked the princess.

"I have the power," said Riquet with the Tuft, "to bestow as much wit as I please on the person I am to love best in the world; and as that person can be no other, madam, than yourself, it depends only on your own will to be the wittiest lady upon the earth. I shall ask of you in return but one thing; which is, that you shall consent to marry me."

The princess looked at him with great surprise, but did not speak a word.

"I see," added Riquet, "that my offer makes

you uneasy, and I do not wonder at it; I will therefore give you a whole year to think of what answer you will give me.'

The princess was so very stupid and silly, and at the same time so much wished to be witty, that she resolved to accept the offer made her by prince Riquet with the Tuft; she even thought a whole year a very long time, and would gladly have made it shorter if she could.

She therefore told the prince she would marry him on that day twelvemonths; and as soon as she had spoken these words, she found herself quite another creature: she said every thing she wished, not only with the greatest ease, but in the most graceful manner.

She at once took share in a pleasing discourse with the prince, in which she showed herself so witty, that Riquet began to fear he had given her more of the charming talent, for which she so much longed, than he had kept to himself.

When the princess went back to the palace, the whole court was thrown into the utmost surprise at the sudden change they found in her; for every thing she now said was as clever and pleasing, as it had been before stupid and foolish. The joy at this event was the greatest ever known through the court; the youngest princess was the only person who did not share in it; for as her

wit no longer served to set her above the beauty of her sister, she now seemed to every one a most ugly and frightful creature.

The news of this great change being every where talked of, it soon reached the ears of the princes in other kingdoms; who all hastened to gain her favour, and demand her for a wife.

But the princess would hardly listen to all they had to say; not one of them had wit enough to make her think of his offer in earnest for a moment.

At last there came a prince so great, so rich, so witty and so handsome, that she could not help feeling a great liking for him.

When the king, her father, saw this, he told her she only had to choose for a husband whom she liked best, and that she might be sure of his consent to her marriage.

As the most sensible persons are always the most careful how to resolve in such serious matters, the princess, after thanking her father, begged him to allow her time to think of what she should do.

Soon after this, the princess chanced in her walk to wander towards the very wood in which she had met Riquet with the Tuft; and wishing

to be free from being disturbed while thinking of her new lover, she strolled a good way into it.

When she had walked about for some time, she heard a great noise under ground, like the sound of many persons running backwards and forwards, and busy on some great affair.

After listening for a moment, she heard different voices, one said, "Bring me that kettle."

Another said, "Fetch the great boiler."

Another, "Put some coals on the fire."

At the same moment the ground opened, and the princess saw, with the greatest surprise, a large kitchen filled with vast numbers of cooks, servants, and scullions, with all sorts of things fit for making ready a noble dinner; some had rolling-pins, and were making the most dainty sorts of pastry; others were beating the syllabubs, and turning the custards: and at one end of the kitchen she saw at least twenty men-cooks, all busy in trussing different sorts of the finest game and poultry, and singing all the time as merry as could be.

The princess, in the utmost surprise at what she beheld, asked them to whom they belonged.

"To prince Riquet with the Tuft, madam," said the head cook; "it is his wedding dinner we are making ready."

The princess was now in still greater surprise than before; but in a moment it came into her mind, that this was just the day twelvemonths on which she had promised to marry prince Riquet. When she thought of this she was ready to sink on the ground.

The reason of her not thinking of it before was, that when she made the promise to the prince she was quite silly, and the wit which the prince had given to her, had made her forget all that had happened to her before.

She tried to walk away from the place; but had not gone twenty steps, when she saw Riquet with the Tuft before her, dressed finely in the grandest wedding suit that ever was seen.

"You see, madam," said he, "that I have kept my promise strictly; and I dare say you are come for the same purpose, and to make me the most happy of men."

"I must confess," replied the princess, "that I have not yet made up my mind on that subject; and also, that I fear I can never consent to what you desire."

"You quite surprise me, madam," answered prince Riquet.

"That I can easily believe," replied the princess, "and to be sure I should be greatly at a loss what to say to you, if I did not know that you possess the best sense in the world. If you

were a silly prince you would say, 'The promise of a princess should not be broken, and therefore you must marry me.' But you, prince Riquet, who have so much more sense than any body else, will, I hope, excuse me for what I have said. You cannot forget, that when I was only a silly stupid princess, I would not freely consent to marry you; how therefore now that I am blessed with sense, and for that reason must of course be the more hard to be pleased, can you expect me to choose the prince I then would not accept? If you really wished to marry me, you did very wrong to change me from the most silly creature in the world, to the most witty, so as to make me see more plainly the faults of others."

"If, madam," replied Riquet with the Tuft, "you would think it but right in a prince without sense to blame you for what you have said, why should you deny to me the same power in an affair in which the welfare of my whole life is at stake? Is it just that persons of sense should be worse treated than those who have none? Can you, my princess, who are now so very clever, and who so much wished to be so, resolve indeed to treat me in this manner? But let us reason upon it a little. Is there any thing in me besides my being ugly that you dislike? Do you object to my birth, my sense, my temper, manners or rank?"

"No, none of these," replied the princess; "I dislike nothing in you but your being so very ugly."

"If that is the case," answered Riquet, "I shall soon be the most happy man alive; for you, princess, have the power to make me as handsome as you please."

"How can that be?" asked the princess.

"Nothing more is wanting," said Riquet, "than that you should love me well enough to wish me very handsome. In short, my charming princess, I must inform you that the same fairy who, at my birth, was pleased to bestow upon me the gift of making the lady I loved best as witty as I pleased, was present also at yours, and gave to you the power of making him whom you should love the best as handsome as you pleased."

"If this is the case," said the princess, "I wish you with all my heart to be the most handsome prince in all the world; and as much as depends on me, I bestow upon you the gift of beauty."

As soon as the princess had done speaking, Riquet with the Tuft seemed to her eyes the most handsome, the best shaped, and most pleasing person that she had ever beheld.

Some people thought that this great change in the prince, was not brought about by the gift of the fairy, but that the love which the princess felt for him was the only cause of it; and in their minds the princess thought so much of the good faith of her lover, of his prudence, and the goodness of his heart and mind, that she no longer thought of either his being so ugly in his face, or so crooked in his shape.

The hump on his back, such people thought, it now seemed to her to be nothing more than the easy gait in which men of rank sometimes indulge themselves; and his lameness seemed a careless freedom, that was very graceful; the squinting of his eyes, in those of the princess, did but make them seem more sparkling and more tender; and his thick red nose, in her mind, gave a manly and warlike air to his whole face.

Let this be as it may, the princess promised to marry prince Riquet with the Tuft directly, if he could obtain the consent of the king her father.

When the king was told that his daughter felt a great esteem for Riquet with the Tuft, as he had already heard of the goodness of both the heart and mind of that prince, he agreed with pleasure to have him for a son-in-law; so that the next day, as the prince had long hoped for, he was married to the beautiful and no less witty princess.

FINIS.

Plummer and Brewis, Printers, Love Lane, Eastcheap.