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漢文註釋

巨 足 國

註釋者 厲鼎驥



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標商冊註



THE STORY OF FAIRYFOOT

The Story of Fairyfoot

CHAPTER I

Fairyfoot's Birth

Once upon a time,¹ far away in the west country, there stood a town called Stumpingham.² It³ contained seven windmills, a king's palace, a market-place,⁴ a prison, and everything else⁵ that befits the capital of a kingdom.

A fine city was Stumpingham;⁶ indeed, the people who lived there thought it the finest city in the world. It stood in the midst of⁷ a great plain, which, for nearly ten miles round the city walls,⁸ was covered with orchards and smiling⁹ corn-fields.

Beyond these lay a great belt of pasture land, nearly twenty miles broad,¹⁰ and this in its turn

1. Once upon a time 昔者. 2. Called Stumpingham 名曰 Stumpingham. 3. It 指 Stumpingham. 4. Market-place 市場. 5. Everything else 其他各物. 6. A fine city was Stumpingham = Stumpingham was a fine city 倒裝之者, 係欲着重 a fine city 三字也. 7. Stood in the midst of... 坐落於...之中央. 8. For nearly ten miles round the city walls 環城約十英里. 9. Smiling 含笑的 (形容田景之美也). 10. Beyond these lay a great belt of pasture land, nearly twenty miles broad (= A great belt of pasture land, nearly twenty miles broad, lay beyond these) 其外有牧場一片, 廣約二十英里.

was bounded by¹ a forest so wide and thick, that no man in Stumpingham knew how wide it was. Indeed, many of the people in the city thought that it reached to the end of the world.

There were good reasons why they should think so.² In the first place,³ it was well known⁴ that the forest had long been the home of the fairies, and therefore even the bravest of men did not care to go far into it.⁵

In the second place,⁶ the people of Stumpingham did not care to travel; men, women, and children had feet so large and heavy that they could not walk well.⁷ Whether it was because of something in the place, I cannot tell,⁸ but great feet had been the fashion⁹ there for hundreds of years,¹⁰ and the nobler the family the larger the feet.¹¹

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1. In its turn was bounded by... 又以... 爲界 (in its turn 轉, 又).
 2. There were good reasons why they should think so 若輩所以作此想者, 有至理焉 (so 指 that the forest reached to the end of the world).
 3. In the first place (= firstly) 一則, 第一層. 4. It was well known 盡人皆知 (it 指 that the forest had long been the home of the fairies).
 5. Even the bravest of men did not care to go far into it 卽最勇之人, 亦不欲深入其中. 6. In the second place (= secondly) 二則, 第二層.
 7. They could not walk well 若輩不良於行. 8. Whether it was because of something in the place, I cannot tell 此事或有所因, 余則不知.
 9. Fashion 風行, 習尚. 10. For hundreds of years 閱數百年矣, 久矣.
 11. The nobler the family the larger the feet 門第愈高則足愈大.

It¹ was, therefore, the aim of all who were above the rank of shepherds and such-like² people, to make their feet as large as they could. So well did they succeed,³ that the slippers⁴ of some rich persons often served as⁵ sleeping-place for the cat and her kittens.

Stumpingham had a king of its own,⁶ and his name was Stiffstep. His family was very old, and very, very⁷ large-footed. His people called him "Lord of the World,"⁸ and every year he made a grand speech to them about the mighty land over which he ruled.⁹

His queen, Hammerheel, was looked upon as the greatest beauty in Stumpingham,¹⁰ for her shoe was not much less than¹¹ a fishingboat. Their first

1. It 指 to make their feet as large as they could. 2. Such-like 類似的; 與之相似的. 3. So well did they succeed = They succeeded so well 倒裝之者, 所以加重語勢也. *Did* 亦係用以加重語勢者, 並非疑問. 4. Slippers 拖鞋. 5. Served as... 充作...之用. 6. Stumpingham had a king of its own = Stumpingham had its own king. 7. Very very. 用此疊字者, 所以極言其甚也. 8. Lord of the world 世界之主. 9. Every year he made a grand speech to them about the mighty land over which he ruled 彼每年大語於民, 論其所治之天國. 10. His queen, Hammerheel, was looked upon as the greatest beauty in Stumpingham 其后 Hammerheel, 人以爲 Stumpingham 之絕色. 11. Not much less than 較之...不甚小矣 (意即 "其大幾與...相等")

six children were every bit¹ as handsome as their parents, but their seventh child was a great grief to them.²

For a long time after its birth nobody about the palace could understand what was the matter³—the ladies-in-waiting seemed so much troubled,⁴ and the king looked so angry.

At last, however, it was whispered through the city⁵ that the queen's seventh child had been born with such small feet that the like⁶ had never been seen or heard of before. "Only fairies have feet like those," said the wise people who saw them.

CHAPTER II

How Fairyfoot Got His Name

Never before in the history of Stumpingham had a king's son been born with such tiny feet.⁷ The common people thought that some great

1. Every bit (=in every respect) 全然. 2. Was a great grief to them 爲彼等之大憂. 3. What was the matter 何事. 4. The ladies-in-waiting seemed so much troubled 衆宮女似甚憂鬱. 5. It was whispered through the city 街談巷議 通城竊議. 6. The like (=the same) 指 the small feet. 7. Never before in the history of Stumpingham had a king's son been born with such tiny feet 前者, Stumpingham 史中. 國王之子, 未嘗生有如是之小足也.

trouble was going to befall the city;¹ the learned men began to write books about it;² all the friends of the king and queen came to the palace to mourn with them over the sad event.³

All the lords and ladies of the court, and most of the people in the city, joined in⁴ the mourning. At the end of seven days, however, they began to think that all their tears were of no use,⁵ and so the friends went back to their homes, and the people took to their work.⁶

If the learned men's books were written, nobody ever read them;⁷ and to help the queen to get over her sorrow,⁸ the young prince was sent out to the pasture lands, to be brought up⁹ among the shepherds.

The chief man there¹⁰ was called Fleecefold, and his wife's name was Rough Ruddy. They lived in a snug cottage with their son

1. Some great trouble was going to befall the city 大亂將興於此城。
 2. The learned men began to write books about it 學者著書以論此事。
 3. To mourn over the sad event 哀此悲事。 4. Joined in 加入。 5. Of no use 無益。 6. The people took to their work 庶民從事於其業。 7. If the learned men's books were written, nobody ever read them 苟學者之書著成, 亦無人讀之。 8. To get over her sorrow 解其憂, 消其愁。 9. To be brought up 養育。 10. The chief man there 其地之領袖。

Black-thorn and their daughter Brownberry, and were looked upon as great people,¹ because they kept the king's sheep. Moreover, Fleecefold's family was known to be² a very old one; and Rough Ruddy boasted that she had the largest feet in all the pastures.

The shepherds held them in high respect,³ and it⁴ grew still⁵ higher when the news spread that the king's seventh son had been sent to their cottage. People came from all quarters⁶ to see the young prince, and great was the sorrow over his tiny feet.⁷

The king and queen had given him no fewer than⁸ fourteen names, for such was the fashion in the king's family. But the honest country people did not know by which of the fourteen to call him,⁹ and so, as his feet were the strangest thing about him, they began to call him Fairyfoot.

1. Were looked upon as great people 視為貴人。 2. Was known to be... 稱為...，以...聞。 3. Held them in high respect 甚敬重之。 4. It 指 the respect. 5. Still 作“益”字解。 6. All quarters (=all parts) 四方，各處。 7. Great was the sorrow over his tiny feet=the sorry over his tiny feet was great. 倒裝之者，係欲着重 great 字也。 8. No fewer than... 不較... 為少 意即“至少...”。 9. But the honest country people did not know by which of the fourteen to call him 然敦厚之鄉民，於此十四名號之中，不知當以何者呼之。

At first they were afraid they might get into trouble for doing this,¹ but when no notice was taken by² the king or those at the court, the shepherds felt they were doing no harm. From that time onward,³ the boy was always known in all the pasture lands as⁴ Fairyfoot.

At court⁵ it⁶ was not thought polite to speak of him at all.⁷ His birthday was never kept,⁸ nor was he sent for⁹ at Christmas,¹⁰ for the queen and her ladies could not bear¹¹ to see his feet.

Once a year¹² the youngest page-boy¹³ was sent to see how he did,¹⁴ and to take him a bundle of his brothers' cast-off clothes.¹⁵ As the king grew old and cross,¹⁶ it was said¹⁷ that he had some thoughts of casting the boy off altogether.¹⁸

1. They were afraid they might get into trouble for doing this 若輩所懼者，或因此舉而陷於禍也。 2. No notice was taken by...不爲...所注意。 3. From that time onward 自此以後。 4. Was known as... 稱爲...，以...聞。 5. At court 朝中。 6. It 指 to speak of him. 7. Not at all 全不，毫不。 8. Was never kept 從未舉行。 9. Was sent for 被召。 10. At Christmas 耶穌聖誕日。 11. Could not bear 不耐。 12. Once a year 每年一次。 13. The youngest page-boy 小僊奴。 14. To see how he did 視其起居，探其境況。 15. To take him a bundle of his brothers' cast-off clothes = to take a bundle of his brothers' cast-off clothes to him. (cast-off 廢棄的；to take 攜去，與 to bring 之意義有別，因 to bring 謂“帶來”也)。 16. Cross 性情暴躁，乖戾。 17. It was said 據說，人云。 18. Casting off altogether 全然棄絕，全然置之不顧。

CHAPTER III

A Strange Bird

In course of time¹ Fairyfoot grew to be² a big boy. The country air made him fair and rosy, and all agreed that he would have been handsome but for his small feet.³

Small though they were,⁴ however, he learned to walk at an early age,⁵ and in time to run and to jump.⁶ As running and jumping were quite unknown among the children of Stumpingham, many of the parents were very much shocked⁷ when they saw the king's son doing such things.

All the shepherd people knew that Fairyfoot was looked down upon⁸ at the court, and so they looked down upon him, too. The old people thought him unlucky; the children would not play

1. In course of time 其時。 2. Grew to be 長成。 3. All agreed that he would have been handsome but for his small feet 人皆謂若非因其小足，彼可謂秀美矣。 4. Small though they were = Though they were small. 5. At an early age 早年，幼稚之時。 6. And in time to run and to jump = and in time [he learned] to run and to jump. 7. Were very much shocked 甚為驚愕。 8. Was look down upon 為人輕視。

with him.¹ Fleecefold was ashamed to have him in his cottage,² but he dared not disobey the king's orders. Besides,³ the clothes brought by the page-boy were useful not only to Fairyfoot, but to Blackthorn as well.⁴

At last, however, Rough Ruddy made up her mind⁵ that the sight⁶ of such nasty⁷ running and jumping would make her children vulgar; so, as soon as he was old enough,⁸ she sent Fairyfoot every day to watch some sickly⁹ sheep, that grazed on a wild, weedy pasture, hard by the forest.¹⁰

Poor Fairyfoot was often lonely and sad. Many a time¹¹ he wished his feet would grow larger, or that people would not notice them so much.¹² All the pleasure he had¹³ was in running and jumping by himself¹⁴ in the wild pasture, and

1. Would not play with him 不願與之同遊。 2. Was ashamed to have him in his cottage 以其有彼之廬中爲恥。 3. Besides (=moreover) 且。 4. Were useful not only to Fairyfoot, but to Blackthorn as well 非特有濟於 Fairyfoot, 亦復有濟於 Blackthorn (not only...but...不僅...且...; as well 亦)。 5. Made up her mind 決定。 6. Sight 景象。 7. Nasty 可嫌。 8. As soon as he was old enough 彼初長成。 9. Sickly 衰弱。 10. Hard by the forest 在樹林左近。 11. Many a time 屢次, 每。 12. So much 若是其甚。 13. He had=[that] he had。 14. By himself 獨自。

in thinking that none of the shepherd's children could do this, though they were so proud of¹ their great feet.

Tired of his play,² he was lying in the shadow of a mossy rock one warm summer day, with the sheep feeding around him, when a robin, chased by a great hawk, flew into the old velvet cap which lay on the ground beside him. Fairyfoot covered it up, and the hawk, frightened by his shout, flew away.

"Now you may go in safety,"³ he said to the robin, opening his cap.⁴ But instead of⁵ the bird, out sprang a little man dressed in russet-brown,⁶ and looking as if⁷ he were⁸ a hundred years old. Fairyfoot was so taken aback⁹ that for a minute he could not believe his eyes.¹⁰

"Thank you for your kindness,"¹¹ said the old man, "and be sure that I will do as much for

1. Proud of 自傲, 矜誇. 2. Tired of his play 倦於遊戲. 3. In safety 安然. 4. Opening his cap = when he was opening his cap. 5. Instead of 代替. 6. dressed in russet-brown 着赤褐色之衣. 7. Looking as if 猶如, 狀若. 8. Were 係 — verb in the subjunctive mood. 9. Taken aback 驚怖. 10. For a minute he could not believe his eyes 彼一時不能自信其目 (意即 "彼一時不能辨其爲幻爲真"). 11. Thank you for your kindness 謝汝厚意.

you.¹ If you are ever in trouble, call on me;² my name is Robin Goodfellow." So saying, he darted off, and was out of sight in an instant.³

Though the boy wondered for days⁴ who the little man could be, he told no one about him, for Robin's feet were as small as his own, and it was clear⁵ he would not be liked in Stumpingham. So Fairyfoot kept the story to himself.⁶

CHAPTER IV

Among the Fairies

At last midsummer day⁷ came, and in the evening the shepherds held a feast.⁸ There were bonfires⁹ on the hills, and lots of fun¹⁰ in the villages. But Fairyfoot sat alone beside his sheepfold, for the children in the village where he

1. Be sure that I will do as much for you 余必當照樣有助於汝, (be sure 定, 必). 2. If you are ever in trouble, call on me 爾若一旦有難, 呼我可也 (call on 在此處作“呼籲”解). 3. So saying, he darted off, and was out of sight in an instant 既爲此語, 彼急奔而去, 瞬息不見 (out of sight 不見; in an instant 瞬息之間). 4. Wondered for days 疑訝多日. 5. It was clear 顯然 (it 指 [that] he would not be liked in Stumpingham). 6. Kept the story to himself 祕其事, 不以此事告人. 7. Midsummer day (= the summer solstice) 夏至. 8. Held a feast 舉行慶祝 (猶俗云“過節”). 9. Bonfires 煙火. 10. Lots of fun 種種遊戲.

lived would not let him sit with them about the bonfire. So he had gone to the sheepfold to mourn the size of his feet, which came between him and so many good things.¹

Fairyfoot had never felt so lonely in his life,² when a happy thought struck him.³ "Robin Goodfellow, come here!" he cried.

"Here I am," said a sharp little voice at his elbow! and there stood the little man himself.

"I am very lonely, and no one will play with me, because my feet are so small," said Fairyfoot.

"Come then,⁴ and play with us," said the man. "We lead the merriest lives in the world,⁵ and care for⁶ nobody's feet. But all people have their own ways,⁷ and there are two things you must take care to bear in mind⁸ while you are with us.⁹

1. Which came between him and so many good things 其足使之與種種佳事相隔絕。 2. In his life 彼之一生，彼之生平。 3. A happy thought struck him 彼頓生樂想 (struck 感觸)。 4. Then 猶俗云 "那麼。" 5. We lead the merriest life in the world 余儕度世間最樂之生活。 6. Care for 管，關心，留意。 7. All people have their own ways 人皆逞意而行 (to have one's own way 逞意而行)。 8. To bear in mind 銘記於心。 9. While you are with us 爾與我輩同處之時。

“In the first place, do as you see the rest doing.¹ In the second, never speak outside of anything you may hear or see,² for we and the people of this country have never been friends since large feet came into fashion.”³

“I will do that.⁴ and everything else you ask,⁵” said Fairyfoot.

Taking his hand, the little man led the boy over the pasture into the forest, and along a mossy path, in and out among⁶ old trees covered with ivy. Fairyfoot never knew how far they went, but at last they heard the sound of sweet music, and came upon a meadow where the moon shone as bright as day.⁷

Here many beautiful flowers, daffodils, violets, primroses, and cowslips, bloomed together in the thick grass. There was quite a crowd⁸ of little men and women, some clad in russet colour, but

1. Do as you see the rest doing 汝見他人所爲，依樣爲之 (as 依照; the rest 他人). 2. Never speak outside of anything you may hear or see 直譯爲“爾勿爲聞見以外之言，”意即“爾勿爲驚愚駭俗之言。” 3. Since large feet came into fashion 自巨足風行以來 (came into fashion 風行). 4. That 指 Robin Goodfellow 所囑之事。 5. You ask=[that] you ask. 6. In and out among... 出入於...之間。 7. The moon shone as bright as day 月明如晝。 8. Quite a crowd 一大羣。

far more in green,¹ dancing round a little well full of sparkling clear water.

Under great rose-trees which grew here and there² in the meadow, people were sitting round low tables covered with cups of milk, dishes of honey, and carved wooden flagons filled with fairy liquid.³ The little man led Fairyfoot up to the nearest table, and handed⁴ him one of the flagons, saying,⁵ "Drink to the company!"⁶

The boy had never tasted such liquid before. Scarce had it passed his lips,⁷ when he forgot all his trouble—that Blackthorn wore the best of his clothes, that Rough Ruddy sent him to keep the sickly sheep, that the children would not play with him. In short,⁸ he forgot all about his feet, and bore in mind only that he was a king's son, and thought that all was well with him.⁹

1. Some clad in russet colour, but far more in green 有着赤褐色者, 然着綠色者較多. 2. Here and there 隨地, 四處. 3. Fairy liquid 仙液. 4. Handed 授. 5. Saying (= and said 係→ present participle qualifying "man." 6. Drink to the company 舉杯以祝同人. 7. Scarce had it passed his lips 此液未過其唇, 此液僅及其唇. 8. In short 總而言之, 要之. 9. All was well with him 一切無恙, 諸事順適.

All the little people about the well cried, "Welcome! welcome!" while every lady added, "Come and dance with me!"

So Fairyfoot was as happy as a prince, and danced, and drank milk, and ate honey, till the moon was low in the sky.¹ Then the little man took him by the hand, and never stopped by the way² till he had laid the boy on his bed of straw in the corner of the cottage.

CHAPTER V

The Fairy Fountain

Next morning, Fairyfoot was not a bit tired, in spite of all his dancing.³ No one in the cottage had missed him,⁴ and he went out as usual⁵ with his few sheep. Every night all that summer,⁶ when the shepherds were safe in bed,⁷ the little man came, and took him away to dance in the forest.

1. Till the moon was low in the sky 直至殘月西沈。 2. By the way 沿途。 3. Next morning, Fairyfoot was not a bit tired in spite of all his dancing 彼雖舞蹈而翌晨不稍倦 (a bit=a little; in spite of=notwithstanding). 4. Missed him (=discovered the absence of him) 見其不在。 5. As usual 照常。 6. All that summer 一夏天。 7. Safe in bed 安臥, 安寢。

He did not wish to play with the shepherds' children now, nor grieve that his father and mother took no notice of¹ him. He sat watching his sheep, and singing to himself or plaiting rushes² all day long;³ and when the sun went down, his heart was glad at the thought of meeting his merry friends once more.

The wonder was that he was never tired or sleepy, as people often are who dance all night;⁴ but before the summer was ended, Fairyfoot found out the reason. One night, when the moon was full, and the last⁵ of the ripe corn was rustling in the fields, Robin Goodfellow came for him as he always did,⁶ and away they went to the flowery meadow.

The fun there was high,⁷ and Robin was in haste.⁸ So he only pointed to the carved flagon from which Fairyfoot every night drank the clear, red liquid, and did not wait to see him drink it.⁹

1. Took no notice of 不顧. 2. Rushes 蘆葦. 3. all day long 終日.
 4. All night 竟夕. 5. The last (=the end, 端). 6. Came for him as he always did 照常來約. 7. The fun there was high 其地興高采烈.
 8. In haste 匆遽. 9. Did not wait to see him drink it 不待見其飲此 (did not wait 猶谷云“等不及”).

“I am not thirsty, and there is no use losing time,”¹ said the boy to himself. So saying, he joined the dance; but never in all his life had he found anything half so hard as² he now found it to keep up with the company.³ Their feet seemed to move like lightning; the swallows did not fly so fast, nor turn so quickly.

Fairyfoot did his best,⁴ for he never gave in easily;⁵ but at length,⁶ his breath and strength being spent,⁷ he was glad to steal away,⁸ and sit down behind a mossy oak, where his eyes closed in sleep. When he awoke, the dance was nearly over,⁹ and he heard two little ladies dressed in green talking close beside him.¹⁰

“What a pretty boy!” said one of them. “He is worthy to be a king’s son.”¹¹ See what handsome feet he has!”

1. There is no use losing time 徒費光陰無益. 2. Half so hard as... 其難及...之半. 3. To keep up with the company 與衆徵逐. 4. Did his best 盡其力. 5. He never gave in easily 彼未嘗輕易退讓. (gave in 猶俗云“討饒”). 6. At length 迨後. 7. His breath and strength being spent=because his breath and strength were spent. 8. To steal away 潛逃. 9. The dance was nearly over 跳舞將終. 10. Close beside him 近在其側. 11. He is worthy to be a king’s son 彼堪稱君王之子.

“Yes,” said the other, with a laugh that sounded spiteful;¹ “they are just like the feet Princess Mayblossom used to have,² before she washed them in the Growing Well. Her father has sent far and wide in search of³ a doctor who can make them small again. But nothing in this world can do it, except the water of the Fairy Fountain, and none but⁴ we and the nightingales know where it is.”

“One would not care to let everybody know of it,” said the first little lady, “for, if such great crowds of people would come, there would be no peace for miles around.⁵ But you will surely send word to⁶ the sweet⁷ princess, who was so kind to⁸ our birds and butterflies, and who danced so much like one of ourselves?”

“Not I,”⁹ said the spiteful fairy. “Her father cut down the very cedar that I loved best¹⁰”

1. With a laugh that sounded spiteful 冷笑. 2. Used to have 夙昔所有. 3. Has sent far and wide in search of 遣人徧訪 (far and wide 到處, 四面八方; in search of 探尋). 4. None but... 人... 外別無他人. 5. There would be no peace for miles around 周圍數英里內, 必無安寧 (意即“周圍數英里內, 必騷擾不堪矣”). 6. To send word to 寄語, 帶口信. 7. Sweet 性情溫良的. 8. Was so kind to... 優待... 招待. 9. Not I—I will not. 10. The very cedar that I loved best 余最愛之柏.

in the whole forest, and had it made into a chest in which to hold his money.¹ Besides, I never liked the princess—every one praised her so. But come, we shall be too late for the last dance.”

CHAPTER VI

Fairyfoot Runs Away

When the little ladies were gone, Fairyfoot was so filled with wonder that he could sleep no more.² He did not think it strange that the fairies should praise his feet, for they³ were much the same as⁴ their⁵ own.

But it filled him with surprise that Princess Mayblossom's father should be vexed at⁶ hers⁷ growing large. Moreover, since he found there were really other places in the world beside Stumpingham, he thought he would like to see this princess and her country.

1. Had it made into a chest in which to hold ~~his~~ money 以此製成儲金之箱 (it 指 cedar). 2. Was so filled with wonder that he could sleep no more 說極驚異, 致不復成寐. 3. They 指 his feet. 4. Much the same as... 極似... 5. Their 指 the fairies'. 6. Should be vexed at... 以... 爲憂. 7. Hers 即 Princess Mayblossom's feet.

When Robin Goodfellow came to take him home, he dared not let the little man know that he had overheard anything. Never was the boy¹ so unwilling to get up² as on that morning, and all day he was so weary that in the afternoon he fell asleep,³ with his head resting on a clump of rushes.

It⁴ was not often that any one thought of looking after⁵ him and the sickly sheep; but it so chanced⁶ that toward evening⁷ the old shepherd, Fleecefold, thought he would see how things went on in the pastures.⁸

Now, Fleecefold had a very bad temper, and no sooner did he catch sight of⁹ Fairyfoot sleeping, and the flock straying, than¹⁰ he began to shout at the boy with all his might,¹¹ and to shake his big stick at him. His voice was so loud that it woke Fairyfoot, who, seeing the thick stick,¹² began to run away.

1. Never was the boy...=The boy was never.... 2. To get up 起身. 3. Fell asleep 入睡. 4. It 指 that any one...sickly sheep 5. Looking after 留意, 督察, 有時用以作“顧”字解. 6. It so chanced (=it so happened) 偶逢. 7. Toward evening 傍晚. 8. How things went on in the pastures 牧場中現狀如何. 9. To catch sight of 見. 10. No sooner...than...一經...即.... 11. With all his might 盡其力. 12. Seeing the thick stick (=when he saw the thick stick) 見此粗棒

On came Fleecefold as fast as his great feet would carry him;¹ and Fairyfoot, seeing no other shelter from his anger,² fled into the forest, and never stopped till he reached the banks of a swift stream.³

Thinking that it might lead him to the fairies' dancing-ground,⁴ he followed the stream for many an hour.⁵ It wound away into the heart of the forest,⁶ flowing through dells, falling over mossy rocks, and at last leading the boy, when he was tired and night had fallen,⁷ to a grove of great rose-trees.

Here the bright moon made it as light as day, and scores of⁸ nightingales sang in the branches. In the midst of the grove was a clear spring, bordered by banks of lilies, and Fairyfoot sat down by it⁹ to rest himself and to listen.

1. On came Fleecefold as fast as his great feet would carry him (= Fleecefold came on as fast as his great feet would carry him) 飛雪折疊盡其巨足所能行而向前疾追。 2. Seeing no other shelter from his anger (= because he saw no other shelter from his anger) 因見別無避怒之所。 3. A swift stream 湍激之河流。 4. It might lead him to the fairies' dancing-ground 此河或可引之至仙人跳舞之地 (it 指 the stream). 5. For many an hour 多時, 良久。 6. It wound away into the heart of the forest 此河蜿蜒而入林之中心。 7. Night had fallen 日已暮矣。 8. Scores of 數十, 許多 (score 二十)。 9. Sat down by it 坐於其旁 (it 指 the spring).

The singing was so sweet that he could have listened for ever,¹ but soon the nightingales left off² their songs, and began to talk together in the silence of the night.³

“What boy is that,” said one perched on a branch above his head, “who sits so lonely by the Fairy Fountain? He has such small and handsome feet that he cannot have come from Stumpingham.”⁴

“Oh, no,” said another; “he must have come from the west country. I wonder⁵ how he found his way.”

“Why,”⁶ said the third nightingale, “that is easy enough. What had he to do but⁷ to follow the ground-ivy which grows over height and hollow, bank and bush,⁸ from the lowest gate of the king’s kitchen garden⁹ to the root of this rose-tree? He looks a wise boy, and I hope he

1. The singing was so sweet that he could have listened for ever 聽聲若是清越，彼可聽之不已 (for ever 永久). 2. Left off 停止. 3. In the silence of the night 深夜，夜靜更深之時. 4. He cannot have come from Stumpingham 彼必非來自 Stumpingham. 5. Wonder 懷疑. 6. Why 在此處係作語助詞用，以增語勢. 7. What had he to do but... 舍...外彼將何爲. 8. Over height and hollow, bank and bush 過山林麓藪. 9. Kitchen garden 菜園.

will keep the secret,¹ or² we shall have all the west country here, dabbling in our fountain, and leaving us no rest either to talk or to sing.”

CHAPTER VII

The Princess Mayblossom

So long as the birds kept on speaking, Fairyfoot was too much lost in wonder even to think.³ But, by-and-by,⁴ when they stopped talking, and began to sing, he thought that it might be as well for him to follow the ground-ivy, and in his way reach the king's palace.⁵

“Not only,” said he, “shall I see the Princess Mayblossom, but I shall get rid of⁶ Rough Ruddy, the sickly sheep, and the cross old shepherd.”

It was a long journey; but he went on and on,⁷ eating fruits and wild berries by day,⁸ and

1. To keep the secret 嚴守祕密. 2. Or 否則, 不然. 3. So long as the birds kept on speaking, Fairyfoot was too much lost in wonder even to think 當羣鳥絮語之時, Fairyfoot 驚愕異常, 甚至神思恍惚 (So long as... 當... 時; kept on 繼續, 不休; too much 過甚; lost in wonder 驚愕). 4. By-and-by 未幾. 5. He thought that it might be as well for him to follow the ground-ivy, and in this way reach the king's palace 彼思彼或可循連錢草跡以抵王宮 (as well=rather right, convenient, or proper than otherwise; in this way 如是). 6. [To] get rid of 脫離. 7. He went on and on 彼進而又進. 8. By day 日間.

sleeping in the hollows of old trees by night.¹ He never lost sight of² the ground-ivy, which led him over height and hollow, past bush and brake, right through the forest.³

On leaving the forest,⁴ he came to a noble high-road,⁵ which ran past waving fields and pretty villages. It led towards a great city, and ended at last beside a low, old-fashioned gate at the bottom of⁶ the king's kitchen garden. This gate was thought too mean for even the servants,⁷ and had not been opened for seven years.

There was no use knocking,⁸ for the gate was overgrown with moss and tall weeds; so, being an active boy, he climbed over, and walked through the garden. He had not gone far⁹ when a white fawn came frisking by,¹⁰ and he heard a soft voice saying sadly, "Come back, come back, my fawn! I cannot run and play with you now, my feet have grown so heavy."

1. By night 夜間. 2. Lost sight of 不見. 3. Over height and hollow, past bush and brake, right through the forest 越山嶺, 過叢林, 直穿森林. 4. On leaving the forest 既離山林. 5. Noble high-road 大路, 通衢. 6. At the bottom of... 在...之極處. 7. Too mean for even the servant 即爲僕役所用亦太惡劣. 8. There was no use knocking 敲之無益. 9. He had not gone far 彼行未數武, 彼行未遠. 10. Came frisking by 跳躍而過.

Looking round, Fairyfoot saw the most beautiful young princess in the world, dressed in snow-white, and wearing a wreath of roses on her golden hair. She was walking very slowly, as the great people of Stumpingham did, for her feet were as large as theirs.

After her came six young ladies,¹ also dressed in white, and walking slowly. They could not, of course,² go in front of³ the princess, though their feet were just as small as Fairyfoot's.

The boy at once guessed that this must be the Princess Mayblossom. Making her a humble bow,⁴ he said, "Royal Princess, I have heard how much you are troubled,⁵ because your feet have grown so large. In my country that is all the fashion. For years past,⁶ I have been wondering in vain⁷ what would make mine grow. But though I cannot help myself, I think I can help you.

1. After her came six young ladies—Six young ladies came after her. 2. Of course 自然; 當然. 3. In front of...在...前面. 4. Making her a humble bow 向之敬謹鞠躬. 5. How much you are troubled 汝受累殊甚. 6. For years past 閱多年矣, 久矣. 7. Have been wondering in vain 空想 (in vain 無效).

“I know of a fountain that will make your feet smaller and neater than ever they were before. I will show it to you, if the king, your father, will give you leave¹ to come with me.

“You must take with you two of your maids that are the least given to talking,² and the most silent man in all the king’s household. It would very much offend the fairies and the nightingales, if we made the fountain known to everybody.”

CHAPTER VIII

The Princess at the Fairy Fountain

On hearing such good news, the princess danced for joy, in spite of her large feet,³ and she and her six maids took Fairyfoot into the palace. They at once brought him before the king and queen, who were seated⁴ in a grand hall, with all the lords and ladies of the court around them.

The lords were taken by surprise⁵ to see a ragged, bare-footed boy brought in among them,

1. [To] give you leave 准汝, 允許汝. 2. That are the least given to talking 最不好談話者, 靜默寡言者. 3. On hearing such good news, the princess danced for joy, in spite of her large feet 公主之足雖巨, 而聞此佳音, 亦爲歡躍. 4. Were seated 坐. 5. Were taken by surprise 驚駭.

while the ladies thought that Princess Mayblossom must have gone mad.¹ But Fairyfoot, making a humble bow, told his story to the king and queen, and wished to set out² with the princess that very day.³

At first the king would not believe there could be any use in this, because so many great doctors had failed to⁴ make the Princess Mayblossom's feet any less. The lords and ladies laughed poor Fairyfoot to scorn;⁵ the pages wanted to turn him out⁶ for a cheat; the chief nobles said that he ought to be put to death⁷ for telling the king a falsehood.

Fairyfoot was wishing himself safe in the forest again, or even keeping the sickly sheep, when⁸ the queen began to speak. Being a wise woman, she said to her husband, "Do you notice what nice feet this boy has? There may be some truth in his story.

1. Must have gone mad 必已癡矣. 2. To set out 啓程. 3. That very day 即日. 4. Had failed to 不能. 5. Laughed...to scorn 譏笑.... 6. Wanted to turn him out 欲驅逐之. 7. He ought to be put to death 彼應處死. 8. When 於時, 其時.

“For the sake of¹ our only daughter,² we must let slip no chance of³ helping her. I will choose the two maids who talk least, and will send with them my steward, who is the most silent man in the house. All these shall⁴ go with the princess to take care of⁵ her, and who knows but that our sorrow may be turned into joy?”⁶

After some time⁷ the king gave his consent, though it was against the advice of all his nobles. The two maids, the silent steward, and her fawn, which would not stay behind,⁸ were sent with the Princess Mayblossom, and they all set out after dinner.

Fairyfoot had hard work keeping them along the track of the ground-ivy.⁹ The maids and the steward did not like the brambles and the rough roots of the forest; and they thought it

1. For the sake of 因爲. 2. Only daughter 獨養女. 3. Let slip no chance of... 勿失...之機會. 4. Shall 含有命令之意. 5. To take care of 照料. 6. Who knows but that our sorrow may be turned into joy? (=who knows that our sorrow may not be turned into joy?) 誰知余儕不可轉憂爲樂乎. 7. After some time 踰頃. 8. Would not stay behind 不願獨留. 9. Had hard work keeping them along the track of the ground-ivy 令其循連錢草之跡而行, 頗覺困難.

hard to eat fruits and berries, and sleep in hollow trees. But the princess went on with a brave heart,¹ and at last they reached the grove of rose-trees, and the spring with lilies growing round it.

First the steward washed in the spring; and though his hair had been gray, and his face full of wrinkles,² the young nobles at the court envied him his beauty for years after.³ Then the maids washed, and from that day onward they were looked upon as the fairest ladies at the palace.

Last of all,⁴ the princess washed. It could make her no fairer in face,⁵ but the moment her feet touched the water,⁶ they began to grow less, and when she had washed and dried them three times,⁷ they were as small and finely shaped as Fairyfoot's own.

1. Went on with a brave heart 勇往直前. 2. And his face full of wrinkles (=and his face [had been] full of wrinkles) 皺紋滿面. 3. For years after 往後多年. 4. Last of all 最末. 5. It could make her no fairer in face 不能使其容貌加美. 6. The moment her feet touched the water—as soon as her feet touched the water (the moment 甫). 7. Three times 三次.

CHAPTER IX

A Happy Ending

There was great joy among them at the change in the Princess Mayblossom's feet. But Fairyfoot could not help saying in a sad voice,¹ "If there had only been a well that would have made my feet large, my father and mother would not have cast me off, nor sent me to live among the shepherds."

"Cheer up,"² said the Princess Mayblossom; "if you want to make your feet larger, there is a well in this very forest that will serve your purpose."³ Last summer, I came with my father and his woodmen to see a great cedar cut down, of which he meant to make money-chest.

"While they were busy with⁴ the cedar, I saw a bramble-branch thick with berries, some black, some red, and some green. It was the

1. But Fairyfoot could not help saying in a sad voice 但 Fairyfoot 不禁悲聲而語曰 (could not help 不禁). 2. Cheer up 汝其歡樂, 汝其興起. 3. [To] serve your purpose 中用, 適汝之用. 4. Busy with... 從事於...

longest branch that ever grew, I think, but for the sake of the berries, I went on and on. I came at last to the root, which grew hard by¹ a muddy-looking well, with banks of dark-green moss, in the deepest part of the forest.

“The day was warm and dry,² and my feet were sore with³ the rough ground; so I took off my scarlet shoes, and washed my feet in the well. But as I washed they grew larger every minute, and until to-day nothing has been able to make them less. I saw the bramble as we came along;⁴ indeed, it is not far away, and as you have shown me the Fairy Fountain, I will show you the Growing Well.”

Up rose Fairyfoot and Princess Mayblossom, and ran off in search of⁵ the bramble. After a time⁶ they came to where its root grew in the deepest dell of the forest, hard by the muddy-looking well with the banks of dark-green⁷ moss. Fairyfoot sat down to wash, but at that moment

1. Hard by 附近. 2. The day was warm and dry 天氣燥熱. 3. Sore with...因...而痛. 4. As we came along 當余儕進行時. 5. In search of 尋覓. 6. After a time 踰頃. 7. Dark-green 深綠色的.

he heard a sound of music, and knew it¹ was the fairies going to their dancing ground.

“If my feet grow large,” said the boy to himself, “how shall I dance with them?” Rising quickly, he took the Princess Mayblossom by the hand. The fawn followed them; the maids and the steward followed it, and all followed the music through the forest.

At last they came to the flower-decked green.² Robin Goodfellow bade the company welcome for Fairyfoot's sake,³ and gave every one a drink of the fairy liquid. They danced from the rosy sunset till the gray dawn,⁴ and nobody was tired; but before the lark began to sing,⁵ Robin took them all safe home, as he used to⁶ take Fairyfoot.

There was great joy that day in the palace, because Princess Mayblossom's feet were made small again. The king gave Fairyfoot all kinds

1. It 係用以着重 fairies 字者。 2. The flower-decked green 以鮮花點綴之草地。 3. Bade the company welcome for Fairyfoot's sake 囑衆人歡迎 Fairyfoot。 4. From the rosy sunset till the gray dawn 自日落以至天明 (rosy 與 gray 二字係形容天色也)。 5. Before the lark began to sing 雲雀未鳴 意即“東方未明”。 6. Used to 慣常。

of¹ fine clothes and rich jèwels; and when they heard his strange story, both king and queen asked him to live with them as their son.

In course of time² Fairyfoot and Princess Mayblossom were married, and are still as happy as the days are long.³ When they go to visit Stumpingham, they always wash their feet in the Growing Well, so that the royal family may not think them a disgrace.⁴

But when they come back, they make haste to⁵ the Fairy Fountain. The fairies and the nightingales look upon Fairyfoot and Princess Mayblossom, the maids and the steward, as their friends, because they have kept the secret to themselves, and there is still peace and quiet in the grove of rose-trees.

1. All kinds of 種種. 2. In course of time 其後. 3. As happy as the days are long 直譯爲“其歡樂一如時日之久,”意即“享無窮之幸福.” 4. So that the royal family may not think them a disgrace 俾皇族中不至以彼輩爲恥辱也. 5. Make haste to 速往.

DAPPLE GRAY

Dapple Gray

CHAPTER I

There was once a man who had three sons. To two of them he had given so much money and so many acres of land, that there was nothing left for his third son.¹

"I will go out into the world, and seek a fortune for myself,"² said the lad, when he found³ he must expect nothing from his father.⁴

With no money and only a little food, he set off.⁵ He walked on and on until he came to the king's palace, and there he asked to be hired as a servant.⁶ As he was a handsome youth and well set up,⁷ the king agreed to take him into his service.⁸

1. There was nothing left for his third son 無物留與第三子. 2. I will go out into the world and seek a fortune for myself 余欲出外自謀生計. 3. Found (=perceived) 見, 知. 4. He must expect nothing from his father=[that] he must expect nothing from his father. 5. Set off 起程. 6. He asked to be hired as a servant 彼請得傭身為奴. 7. Well set up (=well formed) 風度絕佳. 8. Agreed to take him into his service 允予錄用.

Just about this time¹ the only daughter of the king had been stolen from the palace by a wicked giant. The king was overcome with grief,² and sent a herald through all the land, to say that the man who could rescue the princess should have her for his wife, and a half of the kingdom as well.³

Many brave men set out to do so; but as not one of them ever came back to the palace, it was thought⁴ that they had been killed by the giant.

The lad who had taken service with the king was filled with a desire to go and try his luck also;⁵ but this the king would not allow.⁶ "Where so many strong men have failed, it would be but folly for a lad of your age to try,"⁷ he said.

1. Just about this time 適當此時。 2. Was overcome with grief 不勝憂鬱。 3. Sent a herald through all the land, to say that the man who could rescue the princess should have her for his wife, and a half of the kingdom as well 遣使全國，宣言能援救公主者，得以公主爲妻，并得領治國土之半。 4. It was thought 意料。 5. The lad who had taken service with the king was filled with a desire to go and try his luck also 服勞王家之幼童，亦欲前往徵倖 (and=in order to; try his luck 徵倖，行險)。 6. But this the king would not allow=but the king would not allow this. 7. Where so many strong men have failed, it would be but folly for a lad of your age to try 壯夫之失敗者甚多，以子之年齡之幼童試之，恐亦愚矣 where=whereas).

When the lad had been at the palace for a year, he longed to go home, that he might see his father and mother once again.¹ So he left the service of the king, and made his way back to his native place.²

As he drew near to his old home, he was so glad at the thought of what was before him,³ that he began to sing as he went along.⁴

But his song was soon hushed, for no sooner had he come within sight of the house than he met his two brothers,⁵ who told him that both his father and mother were dead. He also learned that his brothers had shared all their father's goods between them.

“But is there nothing at all left for me out of the goods our father and mother owned?”⁶ he asked.

1. Once again (=once more) 再, 復. 2. So he left the service of the king, and made his way back to his native place 故彼辭王事, 而返故鄉 (made his way=went). 3. What was before him 彼之前途. 4. He began to sing as he went along 彼且行且歌. 5. No sooner had he come within sight of the house than he met his two brothers 彼甫見其居, 即遇兩兄 (to come within sight of...見...) 6. But is there nothing at all left for me out of the goods our father and mother owned? 然則於吾父母所有家產之中, 豈無一物留與吾乎 (out of...於...之中; goods 在此處作“動產”解).

*
 “You were so long away that we thought you had been eaten by the beasts of the forest,”¹ was the reply. “One day a woodman came to us with a tale of having seen just such a lad as you² overcome by a pack of wolves,³ so then⁴ we made sure⁵ you were dead.”

“But you see that lad was not I, for I was at the king’s palace all the time.⁶ Now that⁷ I find you both well-off and rich, I should like to have a share of what should have been mine.”⁸

“We will not give up⁹ any of the land or money,” said the two brothers, “but out on the hill you will find twelve mares, and to these you are welcome, if you care to take them for your share.”¹⁰

Seeing that there was no chance of getting anything better,¹¹ the lad at once set off up the hill to where¹² the mares were feeding.

1. You were so long away that we thought you had been eaten by the beasts of the forest 汝在外日久，吾儕以汝已爲林中野獸所食矣。 2. Just such a lad as you 與汝出若之幼童。 3. Overcome by a pack of wolves 受困於羣狼。 4. So then 於是。 5. Made sure 斷定。 6. All the time 始終。 7. Now that 今既。 8. I should like to have a share of what should have been mine 余欲取余所應得之分。 9. [To] give up 分讓。有時用以作“廢棄”解。 10. To these you are welcome, if you care to take them for your share 倘汝欲以此爲汝之分者，汝得隨意取之，Welcome to (=free to have) 隨意取用 (含謙遜意)。 11. Seeing that there was no chance of getting anything better 因無獲得佳物之機 (seeing that=considering that)。 12. To where = to the place in which.

When he reached the place, he found that each mare had a foal. One of these was a dapple gray,¹ and so fine a foal, that it was already almost twice the size of any of the others.

He went up to it and patted it. "A fine fellow you are, and glad I am to have you for my own,"² he said.

"Yes," said the foal, "I know I am big and well-grown;³ but if only you would sell the other eleven foals, so that⁴ I might have their food as well as my own, in a year's time⁵ you would find it hard to find another foal to equal me."⁶

The lad took the foal's advice,⁷ and sold all the other foals, then, as he had no home to which he could go, he roamed the country in search of⁸ work.

1. Dapple gray 灰色花斑駒. 2. Glad I am to have you for my own (=I am glad to have you for my own) 余樂以汝爲己有. 3. Well-grown 長足. 4. So that 俾使. 5. In a year's time 一年以後. 6. To equal me 堪以及我, 堪與我比. 7. Took the foal's advice 聽從此駒之言. 8. In search of 尋覓.

CHAPTER II

When the year had passed, the lad went to the hill to see how the foal had fared.¹ As soon as he came within sight,² a fine colt ran up to him, and put its nose into his hand.

Yes, what the foal had said was quite true; such a colt of a year old³ had surely never been seen before. It was so tall, and yet⁴ so sleek, that its owner had hard work to climb upon its back.⁵

“Ah!” he said, “I am glad now that I sold all the others, if that is what has made you grow into such a fine fellow. I will take you to the palace, for I know the king will give me much gold for such a fine colt as you are”.

“No,” said the colt, “do not take me away from here yet. Let me run free on the hill with my mother for one year more, and then you shall see how big and strong I have grown.”

1. How the foal had fared 駒之狀況如何。 2. As soon as he came within sight 彼甫見。 3. A colt of a year old 一歲之駒。 4. And yet 並且。 5. Had hard work to climb upon its back 難以騰其背上 (意即“難以騎乘”)。

So the lad bade farewell to¹ the colt, and went off on his travels once more. But as soon as the year was up² he came back, eager to see how much the colt had grown while he had been away.

As before, it came running to meet him, glad that its master had returned. "What! can you really be the young thing I left a year ago?" cried the lad, for the colt was now far bigger than its mother.³

"I'm sure⁴ the king has no such horse as you in his stables. I will take you there at once, that we may see;⁵ but I do not mean to part with you except at a very good price."⁶

"Don't part with me yet," pleaded the colt. "If you will leave me here but one year more, you will find there is no horse to come up to me in all the land.⁷ I will serve you well, if you will

1. Bade farewell to 告別. 2. The year was up=the year was past.

3. For the colt was now far bigger than its mother 因斯時此駒大於其母多多矣 (far bigger=very much bigger). 4. I'm sure. (=I am sure) 余確知.

5. That we may see 吾儕可得而見. 6. But I do not mean to part with you except at a very good price 然余不獲善價, 不欲捨汝.

7. There is no horse to come up to me in all the land 全國之中無馬堪以及我 (to come up to=to equal).

grant me just these twelve months more in which to run free on the hillside."

Now the lad sorely wanted¹ to carry off the colt there and then;² but in the end³ he let it have its way,⁴ and left it to roam as it would⁵ for one year more.

When, however, the year was up, he sped with eager steps⁶ up the hill. At the top stood the colt, now grown so tall and stout that its form seemed to tower above everything else.⁷

"Well,⁸ my beauty," said the lad, "I think I did right to leave you after all.⁹ Who would have thought that a three-year-old colt could be so big and fine as you are? How shall I mount you? You are far too tall for me to be able to climb upon your back."

But at these words¹⁰ the horse lay down upon the ground, and thus¹¹ the youth was able

1. Sorely wanted 甚欲, 亟欲. 2. There and then—at that place and at that time. 3. In the end (=at last) 畢竟. 4. Let it have its way 從其所欲, 唯所欲爲. 5. As it would (=as it wished) 如願. 6. Sped with eager steps 疾趨. 7. To tower above everything else 高聳於他物之上. 8. Well 語助辭, 並無意義. 9. I did right to leave you after all 余之留汝於此, 至爲得計. 10. At these words 一聞此語. 11. And thus 於是; 因此.

to mount; then the great animal rose to its feet,¹ ready² to carry its master where he would.

The lad first rode to his old home. When his two brothers saw the horse he rode, they were overcome with surprise,³ for never had they seen such a lovely creature before. "Where did you get such a horse? It must be worth a fortune,"⁴ they cried.

"It is the foal of one of the mares you gave me," was the lad's reply. "And now, if you will only get me for my horse⁵ the best shoes that ever were made, and the grandest saddle and bridle to be found in the land, I will make you a present of⁶ the twelve mares which are still upon the hillsides."

"Ah yes, that will we gladly do,"⁷ said the two brothers, for they thought that if one horse that came from the hillside was like this, perhaps they too might find a prize among the other twelve.

1. Rose to its feet 起立. 2. Ready 準備. 3. Were overcome with surprise 不勝驚異. 4. It must be worth a fortune 此馬必值多金. 5. Get me for my horse... 爲吾馬購.... 6. Make you a present of... 以...奉贈於汝. 7. That will we gladly do (=we will gladly do that) 此事爲吾儕所樂爲.

CHAPTER III

At last, with shoes and saddle and bridle the like of which¹ had never been seen before, the youth, who had named his horse Dapple Gray, set off to the palace.

"Mind,"² said the horse, as it raced over the ground until the stones flew from under its feet,³ "mind that when you come to the palace, you ask for⁴ a good stable for me, and see that I get the best of food."⁵

"I will be sure to see to that,"⁶ was the lad's reply.

"And there is one thing more,"⁷ the horse went on.⁸ "Do not sell me yet, however high a price the king may offer, for I shall be able to serve you when money would be of no use at all."⁹

1. The like of which 類此之物。 2. Mind (=you mind) 留心。 3. As it raced over the ground until the stones flew from under its feet 當其奔馳道上。至於飛沙走石。 4. Ask for 索；要求。 5. The best of food 極美之食。 6. I will be sure to see to that 余必留意及此 (to see to—to look after, to be attentive to)。 7. And there is one thing more 再有一事。 8. Went on 續言。 9. Do not sell me yet, however high a price the king may offer, for I shall be able to serve you when money would be of no use at all 王雖出重資，幸勿鬻吾，因吾能供汝奔走，而金錢則全然無用也。

The lad gave his promise¹ to do as Dapple Gray had said, and not long after² they came within sight of the palace, for you may be sure it did not take long³ to cover⁴ the ground with such a horse.

When the lad halted at the great door of the palace, the king was just coming down the steps. He stared hard⁵ when he saw this huge horse, with such a goodly rider upon its back.

“Such a horse and such a rider I never saw in my life⁶ before. Where can they have come from?”⁷ he said. At that moment, the lad, leading the horse by the bridle, came up to where the king stood.

“Sire!”⁸ he said, holding his hat in his hand,⁹ “will you take me into your service? I, and my good horse here, will serve you well, and do all your bidding,¹⁰ if only you will take me into your household.

1. Gave his promise 應允。 2. Not long after 未幾, 不久。 3. It did not take long 爲時不多。 4. To cover (=to pass over) 行過。 5. Stared hard 凝神注視。 6. In my life 余之一生; 生平。 7. Where can they have come from? 彼等來自何處 (can have come 係 can come 之 present perfect form)。 8. Sire 陛下。 9. Holding his hat in his hand 執帽於手中 (意即 ‘脫帽爲禮’)。 10. [To] do all your bidding 遵命, 唯命是聽。

“There is but one thing which I must ask in return,¹ and that² is that you will give my horse the best stable in the palace, and good food in plenty.³ For myself I ask nothing.”

“Very well,” said the king, “it shall be as you say.⁴ The best shall be given to that fine animal of yours, and you shall be one of my knights.” He at once gave orders⁵ that the horses of all the other knights were to be turned out of⁶ the best stable, that⁷ Dapple Gray might have it to himself.⁸

Now it made the knights very angry that their horse should be turned out of the best stable, to make room for⁹ the horse of a stranger.

They did all they could to worry and annoy this “upstart,”¹⁰ as they called him; but the young man did not seem to mind in the least.¹¹

1. In return 以爲報. 2. That—the thing which I must ask in return. 3. In plenty 豐足. 4. It shall be as you say 照汝所云可也 (shall 有應允意). 5. Gave orders 發命令. 6. Were to be turned out of... 當逐出.... 7. That 俾, 使. 8. Might have it to himself 得以獨占. 9. To make room for... 爲... 讓出地位. 10. They did all they could to worry and annoy this “upstart” 彼等千方百計與此新進之人爲難. 11. Did not seem to mind in the least 似不稍介意.

He went calmly on his way, and took no notice of¹ their taunts and jeers.

One day they found out that he was the lad who had been in the king's service three years before, and it came back to their minds² that he had then wanted to go and rescue the princess.

"That will be a good way in which to get rid of³ him," they cried. So they went to the king and said to him, "This is the youth who, three years ago, wished to go and rescue the princess from the hands of the giant. Then you forbade him, seeing that⁴ he was so young; but now that⁵ he was grown to be such a strong youth, and has such a splendid horse, would it not be well⁶ to send him to see what he can do?"

They said this, knowing full well⁷ that no knight who set out for the giant's cave had ever yet returned.

The king, who still grieved sorely for his daughter, called his new knight to him. "I am

1. Took no notice of 不顧. 2. It came back to their minds 彼等憶及. 3. To get rid of 擯棄. 4. Seeing that 因. 5. Now that 今者. 6. Would it not be well...? 不亦佳乎. 7. Knowing full well 深知.

told,"¹ he said, "that in days gone by² you made a promise to rescue the princess. The time has now come for you either to keep that promise,³ or⁴ to be put in prison."⁵

In vain⁶ did the young man plead that he had never made such a promise; the king would not listen, and only told him to be gone.

CHAPTER IV

Feeling very sad, the youth went into stable, and was fondling his horse, when all at once⁷ it said, "How is it, my master, that you are so sad to-day? Tell me what ails you,⁸ and perhaps I may be able to help you."

So the lad told him what the king had said, adding that he felt sure it⁹ was the other knights who had formed the scheme, as a means of getting rid of him.¹⁰

1. I am told 據說, 據聞. 2. In days gone by 往日. 3. To keep that promise 實踐此言. 4. Either...or...或..或... 5. To be put in prison 下獄. 6. In vain 無效. 7. All at once 忽然. 8. Tell me what ails you 語我以爾所患. 9. It 係用以着重 knights 字者. 10. As a means of getting rid of him 以爲傾軋之計.

“Oh,” said Dapple Gray, “never fear! We will get the better of¹ them yet, for I will help you to rescue the princess. But first you must go and ask for twelve pounds of steel, and out of that² you must have shoes made for me by the finest smith in the land.”

The lad went to the king and told him that he was willing to try to rescue the princess, if the king would give him twelve pounds of fine steel, and have it made into shoes for his horse by the best smith in the land.

This the king was quite ready³ to do. Meanwhile all the knights mocked at the lad, and said that it was well he could talk, for it would soon be proved that he could do nothing else.

The lad, however, only waved them a cheery farewell⁴ as he rode out of the court-yard on Dapple Gray, whose new shoes raised such a cloud of dust that both horse and rider were soon out of sight.⁵

1. To get the better of 勝過. 2. Out of that 以此. 3. Ready 在此處作“願”字解, 故 This the king... to do, 意即 the king was quite willing to do this. 4. Waved them a cheery farewell 向彼輩作手勢以示歡別之意. 5. Out of sight 不見.

When they came to the foot of the hill on which the giant lived, the lad found it was so steep and smooth that it was almost like an upright sheet of glass. But Dapple Gray went at the hill with all the zeal of a young horse full of mettle.

When, however, he had gone but a little way, his feet slipped, and down came horse and rider to the bottom. Nothing daunted,¹ the gallant steed made at² it again, and this time they were quite half-way up when his feet slipped, and down they came with a noise like thunder.

“This is the third time, and do it I will,”³ the lad heard Dapple Gray whisper to himself. This time the horse dashed at the hill with such a force that the stones flew round the ears of his rider. But the top of the hill was reached, and the lad rode on to the cave where the giant lived.

He stayed for a moment to listen; then, finding that all was still, he slid softly from his

1. Nothing daunted (=being dauntless) 無所畏縮. 2. Made at 直衝.
3. And do it I will—and I will do it 吾必成功.

horse, and crept inside. At first he thought the cave was empty; then he saw a pile of straw at one end, and on the straw lay the princess, fast asleep.

So lovely did the maiden appear as she lay there, that the lad was no longer¹ sorry that he had been sent to save her.

Fearing the return of the giant, he at once took her in his arms,² and mounted Dapple Gray, ready to return to the palace. But before they could start, there was a noise and a clatter such as the lad had never heard before, and the form of the giant appeared at the top of the hill.

“Don’t fail me³ now, my gallant horse,” said the youth; and in answer to⁴ the lad’s voice, Dapple Gray raced down the hill at such a pace that the giant was soon left far behind.

1. No longer 不復. 2. Took her in his arms 抱之. 3. Don’t fail me 爾勿負我. 4. In answer to 適應.

CHAPTER V

When the young man and the princess reached the palace, the king was overcome with joy¹ that his daughter was back at last, and was eager to keep his promise² to reward the youth who had saved her.

But before he had time to settle when the wedding should be,³ the knights came to him, and said that the new knight did not deserve the reward, as he had received help from other people, though from whom they could not say.

“But it⁴ is he who has brought back my daughter, and I have given my word;⁵ so what am I to do?”⁶ asked the king.

“Give him some other task to perform, that you may really test his worth,⁷ before you allow him to marry the princess, and rule over⁸ half your kingdom,” they said.

1. Was overcome with joy 不勝歡悅. 2. To keep his promise 實踐其言, 踐約. 3. Before he had time to settle when the wedding should be 彼未及擇定婚期. 4. It 係用以着重 he 字者. 5. I have given my word 余已應允. 6. So what am I to do? 余將如何之. 7. To test his worth 試其才能. 8. To rule over 統治.

So the king called the lad to him, "My best thanks are yours," he said, "for giving me back my daughter, and marry her you shall.¹ But before you do so,² I wish to give you one more task, that I may be sure you are brave and of a ready wit."³

The lad was rather hurt at this.⁴ He had thought that his work was done, and that the king would at once have granted his reward. However, he did not say what he thought; but only replied, "If it is aught⁵ that I can do, tell me, and I will do it."

"That is well spoken," said the king. "Outside the east wall of the palace is a high hill which keeps the sun from shining into the windows⁶ that face that way. Your task will be to contrive some means⁷ by which, the next time the sun rises, its rays may reach those windows."

1. And marry her you shall—And you shall marry her. 2. You do so—you marry her. 3. Of a ready wit 有隨機應變之才. 4. Was rather hurt at this 聞此頗爲傷心. 5. Aught (=anything) 無論何事. 6. To keep the sun from shining into the windows 使日光不得照入窗內. 7. To contrive some means 設法.

When the lad heard what his task was to be,¹ he was in despair.² Then he thought of his good friend, Dapple Gray, and went to the stable to tell him what he had to³ do.

Dapple Gray did not seem to think the task so hard as the lad had done.⁴ "Give me new shoes of the best steel there is to be found, and we shall be able to do it," he said.

The lad went to the king and said that if he might have⁵ for his horse new shoes made of the very finest steel, he would do his best⁶ to make the sun shine into the east windows of the palace when he rose the next day.

The king did not say him nay,⁷ and as soon as the horse was shod, the lad mounted, and rode out to the hill by the light of the moon.

When they reached the top of the hill, they rode across and across it⁸ all night long,⁹ and Dapple Gray gave such great leaps that at every

1. What his task was to be 其事爲何。 2. In despair 失望。
 3. Had to=must 必須。 4. Had done 意即 had thought。 5. [To] have (=to obtain) 得。 6. [To] do his best 盡其力。 7. Did not say him nay 未否認，未拒絕。
 8. Rode across and across it 跨來跨去。
 9. All night long 竟夕。

leap the hill sank a little into the ground below.

So great was the noise of his hoofs that the people in the city thought there was a storm, and that it¹ was thunder which they heard.

When the king rose from his bed, he went to the window to see what harm the storm had done. At once he saw that the morning sun was shining in, and that there was no trace of the hill to be seen.

“Well, that must indeed be a clever lad,” he said to himself. “I will now let him marry my daughter, and rule over the half of my kingdom, for he has done the task which I set him.”²

But before he could see the lad to tell him this, the bad knights came to him, and said they had been told³ it was the evil spirits who had helped the young man. It would be wiser, they said, to set him one more task before placing so much power in his hands. After a great deal of talk,⁴ the king at last agreed to this.

1. It 係用以着重 thunder 字者. 2. The work which I set him 余所委派之事. 3. They had been told 據聞. 4. After a great deal of talk 商議良久.

CHAPTER VI

When the lad got back to the palace, he went straight to¹ the king. "I have come to claim my reward," he said.

"Wait a bit,"² said the king. "I am told that to perform this task you called the evil spirits to your aid.³ Now such a thing I will not have, so I shall give you a fresh task, which must be done by you alone."

"It is not fair,"⁴ cried the lad. "I did the task you set me with no help but that of my good horse,⁵ Dapple Gray. You do not keep your word; but tell me what is the task you now wish me to perform, and I will do it if I can."

"It is this," said the king. "You spoke just now of your horse, Dapple Gray. Well, when you can bring me a horse as fine and as big for the princess to ride, you shall have her for your wife."

1. Went straight to 即赴 (straight=immediately). 2. Wait a bit 稍待. 3. Called the evil spirits to your aid 求助於惡魔. 4. It is not fair 此事殊不公允. 5. With no help but that of my good horse 會余良馬以外, 別無他助 (but=except, that 指 the help).

“But, sire, I do not think there is another such horse in the world!” cried the lad.

“That is for you to find out,” said the king coldly; “but unless you wish to go to prison, see¹ that such a horse stands by the great door of the palace at noon to-morrow.”²

The poor lad made his way to the stables. “Ah me,” he said to his faithful friend, “the king has set me a task which I am sure I cannot perform, even with your aid.”

“Cheer up,³ my master, and tell me of what it consists,”⁴ said the horse. “It may not be quite so bad as you think.”

“It could not very well be worse,”⁵ sighed the lad. “Listen! By noon to-morrow I have to find a horse as fine and well set-up as you. Now, was I not right in saying that it could not be done?”

“Well,” said Dapple Gray, “it will not be easy; but, on the other hand,⁶ it can be done.

1. See 在此處作“留意”解。 2. At noon to-morrow 明日午時。
3. Cheer up 興起。 4. Of what it consists 實情如何。 5. It could not very well be worse 其惡恐未有甚於此者。 6. But, on the other hand (=but, on the contrary) 然而。

There is such a horse; but it lives in a place where wild beasts may attack us on every side."

"If there is even a chance, let us try," cried the lad, eager to win the princess for his bride.¹

"If you will do what I tell you, we will go and see what we can do," said the horse. "First, you must get twelve sacks of grain, twelve slain sheep,² and twelve ox-hides into which have been driven twelve hundred sharp spikes. Besides these,³ we shall want a barrel of tar."

Having got from the king all the things that Dapple Gray had said would be needed, and placed them upon the back of his steed, the lad set off. He did not need to guide the horse, for it seemed to know the way itself.

When they had left the royal palace many miles behind them, all at once the horse said, "Do you hear anything?"

"Yes," said the lad, "I hear a sound as of the wings of many thousands of birds."

1. Eager to win the princess for his bride 係一 adjective phrase qualifying "lad." 2. Slain sheep 殺死之羊. 3. Besides these 此外.

“Ah,” said the horse, “these are the wild birds flying through the woods. They are sent to stop us before we can reach the land beyond. Cut a hole in the sacks of grain, and let it fall gently out as we go along.”

The lad had no sooner done so than the air round them was black with the birds that had come to eat up¹ horse and rider; but on seeing the corn strewn all along the road, the birds flew down to pick it up.

Meanwhile Dapple Gray put forth his best speed,² and in a very short time³ the flock of birds was but as a black wall behind them.

CHAPTER VII

On and on⁴ they went, through great forests, and over mountains and moors, until at last Dapple Gray again began to prick up his ears.⁵ “Listen, my master, and tell me what you hear,” he said.

1. To eat up 吞食. 2. Put forth his best speed 盡其速力. 3. In a short time 須臾之間. 4. On and on 不停. 5. To prick up his ears (= to listen with eager attention) 豎耳細聽.

“Oh, I hear such a growling and a roaring that I begin to feel afraid!” said the lad.

“Nay, you have nothing to fear,” was the reply. “All you have to do, is to cast on the ground the twelve sheep. The noise you hear comes from the wild beasts of the forest. They are sent to devour us, so that we may not enter the land beyond; but if they see the sheep on the road, they will not touch us.”

Even though¹ the horse said this, the lad clung very tight to his good friend, Dapple Gray, when he saw the hundreds upon hundreds² of wild beasts of all kinds³ that were rushing down upon them.

But as Dapple Gray had said, so soon as⁴ they saw the sheep lying upon the ground, the beasts all made their way to them, so that horse and rider were able to pass through their midst without hurt.

On and on they went, until once again Dapple Gray stopped, and stood with his ears

1. Even though 雖. 2. Hundreds upon hundreds 千百成羣. 3. Of all kinds 種種. 4. So soon as=as soon as.

erect. "Tell me, my master, what do you hear?" he asked.

"I hear the neigh of a horse far, far away in the distance," said the lad.

They went on a good bit more;¹ then Dapple Gray paused, and began to neigh. "Now listen, and tell me what you hear?" he said.

"I hear again the neigh of a horse; but this time it seems to be much nearer than before," was the reply.

"Ah!" said Dapple Gray, "wait until you hear it a little closer still, and then you will know a neigh really is. As soon as the horse comes in sight, you must throw the ox-hides over me, taking care that the spikes are on the outside. Drop the tar barrel on the ground, and climb yonder elm-tree as fast as you can."

"But why may I not stay with you?" asked the lad.

"Because I cannot fight with you on my back,"² said Dapple Gray. "You will see, when

1. A good-bit more 許多 (指路). 2. I cannot fight with you on my back 汝在背上, 吾不能戰.

the horse comes, that flames will rush out of its mouth, and set the tar alight.¹ Then you must watch the flames very carefully. If they fall, it means that I am losing; but if they soar as high as the tree in which you sit, then I shall have won. You must take my bridle, and throw it over the horse's head, which will then be as tame as a lamb."

When he had said this, Dapple Gray gave yet one more neigh, and there came back such a loud neigh in answer that the lad thought the hills would be rent asunder.²

"Look! there it comes! Throw the hides over me, then up the tree you go," cried Dapple Gray.

The lad did not waste much time when he saw what a fierce-looking animal was rushing towards them. Flames were coming out of its mouth, and the sparks set fire to³ the barrel of tar as the creature thundered past.

Then began the fight between Dapple Gray and the strange horse, and so fierce was it⁴ that

1. Set the tar alight 將柏油燒着. 2. The hills would be rent asunder 山將崩裂矣. 3. Set fire to 燒着. 4. It 指 the fight.

the stones flew up even to where the lad sat in the elm-tree.

They fought and bit at each other, and the lad saw that the flames of the burning tar sometimes rose and sometimes fell.¹ Once they fell so low that the young man's heart sank within him, for he feared that the battle was at an end.²

In a very few minutes, however, up sprang the flames again, and this time so high that the lad could feel their warmth upon his face.

He slipped down out of the tree, and ran to where the fight had taken place. There lay the strange horse panting upon the ground. It was easy work to slip the bridle over its head, and it rose to his feet³ as gentle as a lamb.

Then the lad climbed upon its back, and rode it gently home,⁴ while his old friend trotted along by their side. The strange horse was black as coal; but in size and shape it was an exact to Dapple Gray.

1. Sometimes rose and sometimes fell 時升時降, 或起或落. 2. At an end 終止, 完結. 3. Rose to its feet 立起. 4. Home 在此處係作adverb 用.

CHAPTER VIII

Just as the sun reached its height in the heavens,¹ the lad rode up to the door of the palace, where stood the king, who was waiting to see how he had fared.

“Sire,” said the youth, “look at this horse I have brought, and say if it is not as big and as fine as my own Dapple Gray.”

The king looked at the two horses, and he could not but² say that the task had been nobly performed. But the jealous knights had again been putting evil thoughts into his head,³ so he said, “Yes, it is a grand horse, and worthy of⁴ my daughter.”

The lad bowed low,⁵ thinking from these words that his tasks were over. But the king went on:

“She shall ride it to the wedding when you have won her; but you have not done so yet.

1. Just as the sun reached its height in the heavens 日方升於天空 (意即“正午時”). 2. Could not but 不得不. 3. Had again been putting evil thoughts into his head 復授以惡意. 4. Worthy of 應得. 5. Bowed low 深深鞠躬.

“There is still one more trial for you to pass through,¹ but if you do well in this, I promise it shall be the last.”

Much hurt to find that still the king did not think him worthy of his daughter, the lad could only mutter, “It is hard; but I will do my best.”

“Well,” said the king, “the princess will hide herself three times, and each time you must be able to find her. Then you must hide three times; and so well that she will not be able to find you even once.”

The lad knew by this time where to seek help, so he ran at once to the stables, and told his friend of this last task which he had been set.

“This is easy work,” said the horse. “All you have to do is to take your gun, and pretend to shoot the swan that you will see swimming on the pond. That swan is the princess, and she will very soon call out if she thinks you are going to shoot.”

1. To pass through 經歷.

So the lad took up his gun, and ran off to the pond. "That is a very fine swan," he said aloud. "I will shoot it, and take it home to the princess." He held up¹ his gun as if to take aim,² when the princess called out "Don't shoot; it is I, the princess."

"Ho! so I have found you once, have I? Now go and hide again, that we may get this over³ and married," he cried.

This time the princess turned herself into a loaf of bread, and lay upon the table with two real ones.

But the lad made no search for her. He went straight to Dapple Gray, and asked where he should find her.

"Take a knife," said the horse, "and make as if⁴ you were about to cut the third loaf of those you will find upon the table. She will soon call out then."

Knife in hand,⁵ the lad strode into the room, where the loaves lay upon the table all in a row.⁶

1. Held up 舉起. 2. As if to take aim 一若欲瞄準者. 3. [To] Get this over 完畢此事. 4. Make as if 佯作. 5. Knife in hand 手執小刀. 6. All in a row 全在一行之中.

“Ha!” he cried aloud, “this bread looks good. I am in luck’s way,¹ for I am very hungry.”

As he spoke, the young man seized the third loaf, and made as if he would have cut it in two. But the princess called out, “I pray you do not cut the loaf. It is I, the princess.”

“Ho! ho!” said the lad, “so I have caught you a second time. Now hide once more, and then it is my turn.”²

CHAPTER IX

This time the princess turned herself into³ a nut, and put herself into a basket of nuts that an old woman was selling by the roadside.

Again the lad sought the advice of his four-footed friend,⁴ who said, “Go down the road until you meet an old woman selling nuts. Buy some nuts from her, taking care that you pick out one that has a large maggot-hole⁵ in the centre. Pretend to crack this nut by treading upon it with your heel, and the princess will soon call out.”

1. I am in a luck's way 余運甚佳. 2. It is my turn 輪流及吾. 3. Turned herself into 變爲. 4. Four-footed friend 四足之友 (指馬). 5. Maggot-hole 蛆眼, 蛀洞.

So the lad walked down the road until he came upon¹ the old woman with a basket of nuts upon her arm. "Good-day, dame," he said, "your nuts look nice. Will you sell me a handful² of them?"

"Yes, to be sure,³ young master; pick them out where you will," said the woman, as she held out the basket, so that he might make his choice.⁴

The lad picked out a few,⁵ making sure that the one with the maggot hole in the centre was among them. Then, giving the money to the old woman, he strode off.

As soon as he came to a lonely part of the road, he took the nut in his hand, saying, "I will crush this one with my heel, that I may see if it tastes as good as it looks."

But the princess called out, "It is I, the princess. If you tread on the nut, you will crush me to pieces."

"Ha! ha!" laughed the lad, "so I have found you for the third time. Now it is my turn."

1. Came upon 遇見. 2. A handful 一撮, 一把. 3. To be sure (=certainly) 定然. 4. [To] make his choice 選擇. 5. A few 數粒.

Off ran the youth to ask the advice of Dapple Grap as to where he should hide. "Turn yourself into a clod of earth, and lie close to my hoof. She will never think of looking for¹ you there," said the horse.

Up and down went the princess, looking high and low² for the knight whom she was to marry; but nowhere could she find him. At last she had to call out that she gave it up,³ and that he must show himself.

"Very well," said the lad, as he came out from between the horse's hoofs. "Now I will hide again, and see if you are able to find me this time."

So now he changed himself into a little bird, and set up in a tree just above where the princess was looking for him. "Be quick! Be quick!" he sang, and went wherever she did until the maiden began to get quite angry.

"Do go away, you silly bird!" she cried. "Don't you see I am being as quick as I can?"

1. Looking for 尋. 2. High and low 此處作“遍”字解. 3. Gave it up 作罷.

But it is all of no use; I cannot find him." She looked so much as if he were going to cry, that the lad could stand it no longer.¹ He turned himself back into a man, and dropped down at her feet.

The princess would not try again! so they went to the king, and this time he really did keep his promise, and lost no time² in setting everything ready³ for the wedding.

The lad rode to the church on Dapple Gray, and the princess rode on the strange black horse, while all the people flocked to see the wedding of the princess with the knight who had gone through⁴ so much to win her.

1. Could stand it no longer 不能再忍. 2. Lost no time 隨即.
3. Getting ready 準備. 4. Had gone through 經歷.

THE END

桂紹盱·張慎伯·丁廣平合編

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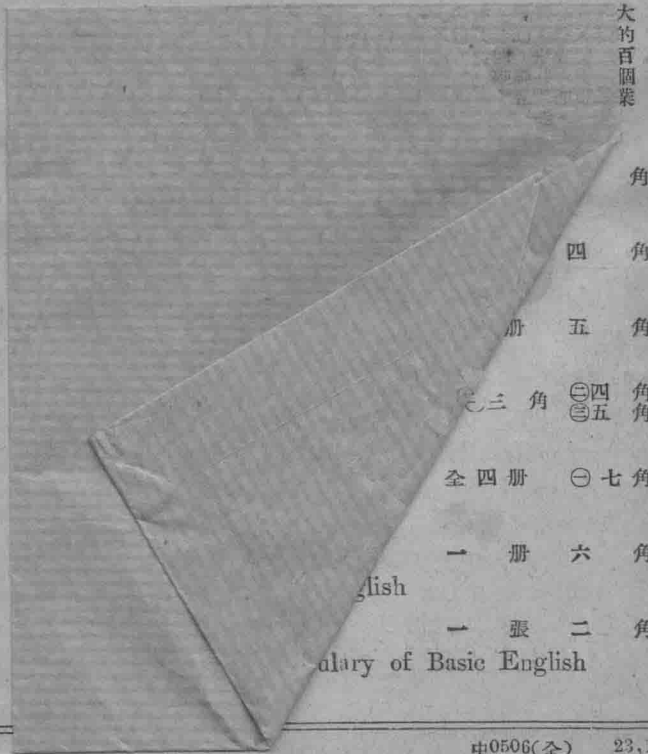
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