

THE
SLEEPING BEAUTY
IN THE
WOOD:

AN ENTERTAINING TALE.

To which is added, the

STORY

OF

*The Envious Man, and him
that he Envied.*



GLASGOW:

Published and Sold Wholesale and Retail, by
R. HUTCHISON & Co. 10, Saltmarket.

1817.

THE
SLEEPING BEAUTY
IN THE
WOOD.

THERE was formerly, in a distant country, a King and a Queen, the most beautiful and happy in the world; having nothing to allay their delights, but the want of children to participate in the pleasures they enjoyed. This was their whole concern, physicians, waters, vows, and offerings were tried, but all to no purpose. At last however, the Queen proved with child, and in due time was brought to bed of a daughter. At the christening, the Princess had seven Fairies for her godmothers, who were all they could find in the whole kingdom, that every one of them might give her a gift.

The christening being over, a grand feast was prepared to entertain and thank the Fairies. Before each of them was placed a magnificent cover, with a case of massy gold whereon were a spoon, a knife and fork, of pure gold, and excellent workmanship, set with divers precious stones; but, as they were all sitting down at the table, they saw coming into the hall, a very old Fairy, whom the

had not invited, because it was near fifty years since she had been out of a certain tower, and was thought to have been either dead or enchanted.

The King ordered her a cover, but could not furnish her with a case of gold as the others had, because he had only seven made for the seven Fairies. The old Fairy fancied she was slighted, by not being treated in the same sumptuous manner with the rest, and murmured out some threats between her teeth.

One of the young Fairies who sat by her, overheard how she grumbled, and judging that she might give the little Princess some unlucky gift, she went as soon as she rose from the table, and hid herself behind the hanging that she might speak last, and repair, as much as possible she could, the evil which the old Fairy might intend.

In the mean while, all the Fairies began to give their gifts to the Princess in the following manner.

The youngest gave her a gift, that she should be the most beautiful person in the world.

The second, that she would have wit like an angel.

The third, that she would have a wonderful grace in every thing that she did.

The fourth, that she would dance perfectly well.

The fifth, that she would sing perfectly well.

And the sixth, that she would play on all kinds of musical instruments to the utmost perfection.

The old Fairy's turn coming next, she advanced forward, and, with a shaking head which seemed to shew more spite than anger, she said, That the Princess would have her hand pierced with a spindle, and die of the wound.

This terrible gift made the whole company tremble, and every one of them fell to crying.

At this very instant, the young Fairy came out from behind the curtains, and spake these words aloud, Assure yourselves, O King and Queen, that your daughter shall not die of this disaster; it is true, I have not power to undo what my elder has done. The Princess shall indeed pierce her hand with a spindle, but instead of dying she shall only fall into a profound sleep, which shall last an hundred years; at the expiration of which, the King's Son shall come and awake her from it.

The King to avoid this misfortune, took by the old splenetic and malicious Fairy caused immediately his royal proclamation to be issued forth, whereby every person was forbidden, upon the pain of death, to speak with a distaff or spindle, nay, even so much as to have a spindle in any of their houses.

About 15 or 16 years after, the King and Queen being gone to one of their houses

pleasure, the young princess happened to divert herself in going up and down the palace, when going up from one apartment to another, she at length came into a little room on the top of a tower, where a good old woman, all alone, was spinning with her spindle.

This good woman had not heard of the King's proclamation, issued forth against spindles.

What are you doing here, Goody? said the Princess. I am spinning, my pretty child, said the old woman, ^{fast} who did not know who she was. Ha! said the Princess, this is very pretty; how do you do it? Give it me, that I may see if I can do so. The old woman to satisfy the child's curiosity, granted her request. She had no sooner taken it into her hand, than, whether being very hasty at it, somewhat unhandy, or that the decree of the spiteful Fairy had ordained, is not to be certainly ascertained; but, however, it immediately ran into her hand, and she directly fell down upon the ground into a swoon.

The good old woman, not knowing what to do in this affair, cried out for help. People came in from every quarter in great numbers: Some threw water upon the Princess' face, unlac'd her, struck her on the palms of her hands, and rubbed her temples with Hungary Water; but all they could do, did not bring her to herself.

The good Fairy, who had saved her by condemning her to sleep one hundred years, was in the kingdom of Matakia, twelve

thousand leagues off, when this accident befel the Princess, but she was instantly informed of it by a little Dwarf, who had boots of seven leagues, that is, boots with which he could tread over seven leagues of ground at one stride. The Fairy left the kingdom immediately, and arrived at the palace in about an hour after, in a fiery chariot drawn by dragons.

The King handed her out of the chariot, and she approved every thing he had done; but as she had a very great foresight, she thought that when the Princess would awake, she might not know what to do with herself, being all alone in this old palace, therefore, she touched with her wand every thing in the palace (except the King and Queen) governesses, maids of honour, ladies of the bed-chamber, gentlemen, officers, stewards, cooks, under-cooks, and scullions, guards, with their beef-eaters, pages and footmen. She likewise touched all the horses that were in the stables, as well pads as others, the great dog in the outer court, and the pretty little Mopsey too, the Princess' little spaniel bitch, which lay by her on the bed.

Immediatly on her touching them, they all fell asleep, that they might not awake before their Mistress, and that they might be ready to wait upon her when she wanted ~~them~~. The very ~~sits~~ at the fire, as full as they could of partridges and peasants; and

every thing in the palace whether animate or inanimate, did fall asleep also.

All this was done in a moment; for Fairies are not long in doing their business.

And now the King and Queen having kissed their dear child, without waking her, went out of the palace, and put forth a proclamation, that nobody should come near it. This however was unnecessary, for in less than a quarter of an hour, there grew up all round the park, such a vast number of trees, great and small bushes, and brambles twining one with another, that neither man nor beast could pass thro', so that nothing could be seen but the very tops of the towers of the palace; and not that too unless it was a good way off. Nobody doubted but the Fairy gave therein, a very extraordinary sample of her art, that the Princess, while she continued sleeping, might have nothing to fear from any curious people.

When an hundred years were gone and past, the son of a King then reigned, and who was of another family from that of the sleeping Princess, being out a hunting, on that side of the country, asked what these towers were which he saw in the middle of a great thick wood; every one answered according as they had heard; some said, it was an old ruinous castle haunted by spirits; others, that all the sorcerers and witches of the country kept their sabbath or weekly meeting in that place.

The most common opinion was, that an O-gree* lived there, and that he carried thither all the little children he could catch, that he might eat them up at leisure, without any body being able to follow him, as having himself only power to pass through the wood.

The Prince was at a stand, not knowing what to believe, when an aged man spoke to him thus:

“May it please your Highness,

“It is about fifty years since I heard from my father, who heard my grand-father say, that there was then in this castle a Princess, the most beautiful that was ever seen, that she must sleep there an hundred years, and would be wakened by a King’s son, for whom she was reserved.”

The young Prince was all on fire at these words, believing, without considering the matter, that he could put an end to this rare adventure; and, pushed on by love and honour, resolved that moment to look into it.

Scarce had he advanced towards the wood, when all the great trees, the bushes, and brambles, gave way of their own accord, and let him pass through. He went up to the castle which he saw at the end of a large avenue, which he went into; and what not a little surprised him, was, he saw none of his

* An Ogree is a Giant with long teeth and claws, with a raw head and bloody bones; who runs away with naughty little boys and girls, and eats them all up.

people could follow him, because the trees closed again, as soon as he passed through them.

However, he did not cease from valiantly continuing his way.

He came into a spacious outward court, where every thing he saw might have frozen up the most hardy person with horror. There reigned all over a most frightful silence; the image of death every where shewed itself and there was nothing to be seen but stretched out bodies of men and animals, all seeming to be dead. He, however, very well knew by the ruby faces and pimpled noses of the Beef-eaters, that they were only asleep, and their goblets, wherein still remained some few drops of wine, plainly shewed, that they all fell asleep in their cups.

He then, crossing a court paved with marble, went up stairs, and came into the guard-chamber, where the guards were standing in their ranks, with muskets upon their shoulders, and snoring as loud as they could. After that he went through several rooms full of gentlemen and ladies, all asleep, some standing, and others sitting. At last, he came into a chamber all gilt with gold, here he saw upon a bed, the curtains of which were all open, the finest sight that ever he beheld, a Princess, who appeared to be about 15 or 16 years of age, and whose bright, and in a manner resplendent beauty, had somewhat

in it divine: he approached with trembling and admiration, and fell down before her on his knees.

And now the enchantment was at an end, the Princess awaked, and looking on him with eyes more tender than the first view might seem to admit of: "Is it you my Prince," said she to him, "you have waited a long time."

The Prince charmed with these words, and much more with the manner in which they were spoken, assured her, that he loved her better than himself. Their discourse was so well conducted, they did weep more than talk, little eloquence, a great deal of love. He was more at a loss than she, and no wonder, as she had time to think on what to say to him, for, it is very probable, though the history mentions nothing of it, that the good Fairy during so long a sleep, had given her very agreeable dreams. In short they talked four hours together, and yet said not half that they had got to say.

In the mean time, all the palace awaked, every one thinking on his particular business; and, as all of them were not in love, they were ready to die with hunger; the chief lady of honour being as sharp set as the others, grew very impatient, and told the Princess aloud, that supper was served up. The Prince helped the Princess to rise, she was intirely dressed, and very magnificently; but

his Royal Highness did not forget to tell her that she was dressed like his grandmother, and had a point-band peeping over a high collar, but, however, she looked not less beautiful and charming for all that.

They went into the great hall of looking-glasses, where they supped, and were served by the Princess's officers; the violins and haut-boys played old tunes; but very excellent, though it was now about an hundred years since they had played: and, after supper, without losing any time, the Lord Almoner married them in the chapel of the castle, and the chief Lady of honour drew the curtains.

They had but very little sleep that night, the Princess had no occasion, and the Prince left her the next morning, to return into the city, where his father had been in great pain for him.

The Prince told him he had lost his way in the forest as he was hunting, and had lain at the cottage of a collier, who had given him some brown bread and cheese.

The King his Father, who was a very good man, readily believed him; but his Mother the Queen, could not be persuaded that this was altogether true, and seeing that he went almost every day a hunting, and that he had always some excuse ready for so doing, tho' he had lain out three or four nights together, she began to suspect, and very justly too, his having some little private amour on hand,

which then he endeavoured she should remain ignorant of.

Now these frequent excursions which he then made from the palace, were the times that he retired to the Princess, with whom he lived in this manner for about two years, and by whom he had two fine children, the eldest of whom was a girl, whom they named Morning, and the youngest a boy, whom they named Day, because he was a great deal handsomer, and much more beautiful and comely than his sister.

The Queen's jealousy increasing, she several times spake to her son, desiring him to inform her after what manner he spent his time; alledging, that as he saw her so very uneasy; he ought, in duty, to satisfy her: but he never dared to trust her with the secret, he feared her though he loved her, for she was of the race of Ogres, and the King would certainly not have married her, had it not been for her vast riches.

It was whispered about the court, that she had an Ogerish inclination, and that whenever she saw little children going by, she had all the difficulty in the world to refrain falling upon them, and so the Prince would never tell her one word.

But when the king was dead, which happened about two years afterwards, and he saw himself Lord and Master, he then openly declared his marriage, and went in great

ceremony to conduct his Queen to the palace. They made a very magnificent entry into the capital city, she riding in a triumphal car, with her two children beside her.

Some time after, the King went to make war with the Emperor Cantalabute, his neighbour.

He left the government of the Kingdom to the Queen his mother, and earnestly recommended to her the care of his wife and children.

As soon as he was departed, the Queen sent for her daughter-in-law to come to her, and then sent her to a country-house among the woods, that she might with more ease and secrecy gratify her inclinations.

Some few days after she went to this country-house herself, and calling for the clerk of the kitchen, she said to him, I have a mind to eat little Morning for my dinner to-morrow.

Ah! Madam, cried the clerk of the kitchen, in a very great surprise.—

No excuse, replied she, interrupting him, I will have it so, and thus she spoke in the tone of an Ogress, seeming to have a strong desire to taste fresh meat; and to make the dish more delicious, added she, I will eat her with Sauce Robert*.

* This is a French sause, made up with onions shred and boiled tender in butter, to which are added, vinegar, mustard, salt, pepper, and a little wine.

This poor man, knowing very well how dangerous it was to play tricks with Ogresses, took his great knife and went up into little Morning's chamber; she was then four years old, and came up to him jumping and laughing, to take him about the neck, and asked him for some sugar candy; on which he began to weep, and the knife fell out of his hand, and he went into the back yard and killed a little lamb, and dressed it with such good sauce that his mistress assured him, she had never ate any thing so good in all her life.

He had, at the same time, taken up little Morning, and carried her to his wife, in order that she might be concealed in a lodging he had at the bottom of the court-yard.

The Queen's lascivious appetite (according to her own apprehension) being once humoured, she again began to long for another dainty bit; accordingly a few days after, she called for the clerk of the kitchen, and told him, that she intended that night to sup upon little Day; he answered never a word, being resolved to cheat her as he had done before. He went out to find little Day, and saw him with a foil in his hand, with which he was fencing with a monkey, the child being but three years old: he took him up in his arms, and carried him to his wife, that she might conceal him in her chamber along with his sister, and in the room of little Day, cooked up a young kid, very tender, and

which the Ogress praised as much as the former, saying, It was wonderfully good.

All hitherto, was mighty well, but a few evenings after, this craving Ogress, said to the clerk of the kitchen; I will also eat the young Queen with the same sauce that I had with her children.

Now was the critical time that the poor clerk despaired of being able to deceive her.

The young Queen was turned of twenty years of age (not counting the hundred she had been asleep) though her skin was somewhat tough, yet fair and beautiful. and how to find a beast in the yard so firm, was what puzzled him, and made him at a loss.

He then took a resolution, that he must save his own life and cut the Queen's throat; and going into her chamber, with an intent to do it at once, he put himself into as great a fury as he could, and went into the Queen's room, with his dagger in his hand. However, his humanity would not allow him to surprise her, but he told her with a great deal of respect, the order he had received from the Queen her mother.

Do it, said she, stretching out her neck, execute your orders, and then I shall go and see my children whom I so dearly loved, for she thought them dead ever since they had been taken from her.

No, no, fair Princess, cried the humane clerk of the Kitchen, all in tears, you shall

see your children again, but then you shall go with me to my lodgings, where I have concealed them, and I shall deceive the Queen once more, by giving her another young kid in your stead.

Upon this, he forthwith conducted her to his chamber, where leaving her to embrace her children, and cry aloud with them, he went and dressed a young kid, which the Queen had for supper, and devoured it with the same appetite, as though it had been the young Queen.

Now was she exceedingly delighted with this unheard of cruelty, and she had invented a story to tell the King at his return, how the mad wolves had eaten up the Queen his wife, with her two children.

One evening some time after, as she was, according to her usual custom, rambling about the court and yards of the palace, to see if she could smell any fresh meat, she heard in a ground room, little Day crying, for his mother was going to whip him, because he had been guilty of some fault, and she heard at the same time, little Morning soliciting for pardon for her brother.

The Ogress presently knew the voice of the Queen, and her children, and being quite in a rage to think she had been thus deceived, she commanded, the next morning, by break of day, (in a most horrible voice, which made every one tremble) that they should

bring into the middle of the great court a very large tub, which she caused to be filled with toads, vipers, snakes, and all sorts of serpents, in order to have thrown into it the Queen and her children, the clerk of the kitchen, his wife and maid; all of whom she had given orders to be brought thither with their hands tied behind them, to suffer the vengeance of the incensed Ogress.

They were brought out accordingly, and the executioners were going to throw them into the tub, when the King fortunately entered the court on horseback; and asked, with the utmost astonishment, what was the meaning of this most horrible spectacle; no one dared to tell him. When the Ogress, all enraged to see what had happened, threw herself, head foremost, into the tub, and was instantly devoured by the ugly creatures, she had ordered to be thrown into it for others.

The King could not but chuse being very sorry, for she was his Mother; but he soon comforted himself with his beautiful wife, and his two pretty children. And, after all things were settled, he well rewarded the clerk of the kitchen for his wisdom, humanity, and compassion.

THE MORAL.

TO get a husband, rich, gentle, and gay,
 Of humour sweet, sometime to stay,
 Is natural enough 'tis true;
 But then to wait an hundred years,
 And all the while asleep, appears
 A thing intirely new.
 Now at this time of day,
 Not one in all the sex we see,
 To sleep with such sound tranquility,
 But yet this Fable seems to let us know,
 That very often Hymen's bliss is sweet,
 Although some tedious obstacles they meet,
 Which makes us for them a long while to stay
 And not less happy for approaching slow,
 And that we nothing lose by such delay.
 But warm'd by nature's lambent fires,
 The sex so ardently aspires,
 Of this blest state the sacred joys to embrace.
 And with each earnest heart pursue 'em,
 I've not the will I must confess,
 Nor yet the power or fine address,
 To preach this Moral to 'em.

THE
STORY

OF

*The Envious Man, and him
that he Envied.*

IN a considerable town, two persons dwelt next door to one another; one of them conceived such a violent hatred against the other, that he who was hated resolved to remove his dwelling farther off, being persuaded that their being neighbours was the only cause from whence his animosity did arise; for though he had done him several pieces of service, he found nevertheless, that his hatred was nothing diminished; therefore he sold his house, with what goods he had left, and retired to the capital city of that kingdom, which was not far distant. He bought a little spot of ground which lay about half a league from the city; he had a house convenient enough, with a fine garden, and a pretty spacious court, wherein was a deep well which was not in use.

The honest man, having made this purchase, put on a dervise's or monk's habit, to lead a retired life, and caused several cells to be made in the house, where, in a short time, he established a numerous society of dervises;

he came soon to be publicly known by his virtue, through which he acquired the esteem of a great many people, as well of the commonalty, as of the chief of the city. In short, he was extremely honoured and cherished by every one. People came from afar to recommend themselves to his prayers; and all those who came to live with him published what blessings they received through his means.

The great reputation of this honest man having spread to the town from whence he came, it touched the envious man so much to the quick, that he left his house and affairs with a resolution to go and ruin him. With this intent he went to the new convent of dervises, of which his former neighbour was the head, who received him with all imaginable tokens of friendship. The envious man told him that he was come on purpose to communicate a business of importance to him which he could not do but in private; and because that nobody shall hear us, let us, say he, take a walk in your court, and seeing night begins to draw on, command your dervises to retire to their cells. The head of the dervises did as he required.

When the envious man saw that he was alone with this good man, he began to tell him his errand, walking side by side in the court until he saw his opportunity; and getting the good man near the brink of the well, he gave

him a thrust, and pushed him into it without any body being witness to so wicked an action. Having done this, he marched off immediately, got out at the gate of the convent, without being known to any one, and came home to his own house, well satisfied with his journey; being fully persuaded that the object of his hatred was no more in this world, but found himself highly mistaken.

This old well was inhabited by fairies and genies, which happened very luckily for the relief of the head of the convent; for they received and supported him, carried him to the bottom, so that he got no hurt. He perceived well enough that there was something extraordinary in his fall, which must otherwise have cost him his life; whereas he neither saw nor felt any thing. But he soon heard a voice, which said, "Do you know what honest man this is to whom we have done this piece of service?" Another voice answered, "No." To which the first replied, "Then I will tell you. This man, out of charity the greatest that ever was known, left the town he lived in, and has established himself in this place, in hopes to cure one of his neighbours of the envy he had conceived against him; he has acquired such general esteem, that the envious man, not able to endure it, came hither on purpose to ruin him, which he had performed, had it not been for the assistance which we have given this ho-

nest man, whose reputation is so great, that the sultan, who keeps his residence in the neighbouring city, was to pay him a visit to-morrow, and to recommend the princess, his daughter, to his prayers."

Another voice asked, "What need had the princess of the dervise's prayers?" To which the first answered, "You do not know, it seems, that she is possessed by Genie Maimoun, the son of Dimdim, who is fallen in love with her. But I know well how this good head of the dervises may cure her; the thing is very easy, and I will tell it you. He has a black cat in his convent, with a white spot at the end of her tail, about the bigness of a small piece of English money; let him only pull seven hairs out of this white spot, burn them, and smoke the princess's head with the fume, she will not only be presently cured, but be so safely delivered from Maimoun, the son of Dimdim, that he will never dare to come near her a second time.

The head of the dervises remembered every word of the discourse between the fairies and the genies, who were very silent all the night after. The next morning, by break of day, when he could discern one thing from another, the well being broken down in several places, he saw a hole, by which he crept out with ease.

The other dervises, who had been seeking for him, were rejoiced to see him. He gave

them a brief account of the wickedness of that man to whom he had given so kind a reception the day before, and retired to his cell. It was not long till the black cat, of which the fairies and the genies had made mention in their discourses the night before, came to fawn upon her master, as she was accustomed to do: he took her up, and pulled seven hairs out of the white spot that was upon her tail, and laid them aside for his use, when occasion should serve.

The sun was not high, when the sultan, who would leave no means untried that he thought could restore the princess to her perfect health, arrived at the gate of the convent. He commanded his guards to halt, whilst he, with his principal officers, went in. The dervises received him with profound respect.

The sultan called their head aside, and says, "Good Scheich, it may be, you know already the cause of my coming hither." "Yes Sir," replies he very gravely, "If I do not mistake it, it is the disease of the princess which procures this honour that I have not deserved." "That is the very thing," replied the sultan. "You will give me new life, if your prayers, as I hope they will, can procure my daughter's health." "Sir," said the good man, "If your Majesty will be pleased to let her come hither, I am in hopes, through God's assistance and favour, she shall return in perfect health."

The prince, transported with joy, sent immediately to fetch his daughter, who very soon appeared with a numerous train of ladies and eunuchs, but masked, so that her face was not seen. The chief of the dervise caused a pall to be held over her head, and he had no sooner thrown the seven tufts of hair upon the burning coals, but the genie Maimoun, the son of Dimdim, gave a great cry, without any thing being seen, and left the princess at liberty; upon which she took the veil from off her face, and rose up to see where she was, saying, "Where am I, and who brought me thither?" At these words the sultan, overcome with excess of joy, embraced his daughter, and kissed her eyes; he also kissed the chief of the dervise's hands, and said to his officers, "Tell me your opinion, what reward does he deserve who has thus cured my daughter?" They all cried, he deserves her in marriage. "That is what I had in my thoughts," said the sultan, "and I make him my son-in-law from this moment." Some time after, the prime visier died, and the sultan conferred the place on the dervise. The sultan himself died without heirs-male; upon which the religious order and the militia gathered together, and the honest man was declared and acknowledged sultan by general consent.

FINIS.