

THE

Factor's GARLAND,

Containing many Strange and Wonderful Deliverances.

IN FOUR PARTS.



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Edinburgh 1750

The Factor's Garland.

P A R T I.

BEHOLD here's a ditty, the truth, and no jest,
 Concerning a young gentleman in the east,
 Who by his great gaming came to poverty,
 And afterwards went many a voyage to sea.

Being well educated, and one of great wit,
 Three merchants of London did then think it fit,
 To make him their captain and factor also,
 And for them to Turkey a voyage he must go.

And walking along in the streets there he found
 A poor man's dead carcase lying on the ground.
 He asked the reason what made it there ly;
 When one of the natives did make this reply.

That man was a Christian, sir, when he drew breath
 The dues being not paid, he lyes above the earth.
 Why, what are the dues? the factor then cried.
 It is fifty pounds, the Turk he replied.

That is a great sum quoth the factor indeed,
 To see him lie there, makes my heart for to bleed;
 So then by the factor the money was paid,
 And then under ground the dead carcase was laid.

When having gone further, he there did espy
 A beautiful creature just going to die;
 A young waiting maiden, who strangled must be
 For nothing, but striking a Turkish lady.

To think of her dying with grief she was fill'd,
 And rivers of tears like waters distill'd,
 Like streams of a fountain from her eyes run down
 Her red rosy cheeks, & from thence to the ground
 He hearing what her crime was for to end the strife
 Said, what must I give for this fair creature's life?
 The answer returned was, an hundred pounds;
 he which for her pardon he freely paid down.

He said, come fair creature, thy weeping refrain,
 And be of good comfort, thou shalt not be slain,
 Behold I have purchas'd thy pardon, will ye
 be willing to go into England with me?
 he cried, sir, I thank you who freed me from death
 am bound to pray for you so long as I have breath;
 and if you are willing, to England I'll go,
 and due respect to you till death I will show.

P A R T II.

HE brought her to London, where, as it is said,
 He set up house-keeping and made her his maid
 or to wait upon him, and finding her just,
 with the keys of his riches he did her intrust.

At lenth this young factor was hired once more,
 to cross the proud waves and billows that roar;
 and into that country his course he must steer
 which by his maid's father was govern'd, we hear.

Being a hot country, this maid did prepare,
 to get fine light robes in that country to wear;
 she bought a fine waistcoat, the which it is told,
 her servant maid flowered with silver and gold.

he said to him, Master, I do understand,
 you are going factor into a foreign land;

and if you this prince's court enter in,
 please let this flowered garment be seen.

she said, To that prince's court I must go,
 the meaning of thy words I long for to know.

I'll not tell you; there's some reason you'll find.

and that he replied, I'll fulfill thy mind.

When away he sail'd and came to the port,

the factor he came to the emperor's court;

it was the usual custom of that place

to present some noble gift to his grace.

his gift was accepted, and as he stood by,

his flowered garment the prince cast an eye,

Which caus'd him for to colour, and thus for to say
 Friend who flowered this garment, tell me now I pray
 If it please your grace, in my last voyage to Turk
 There I saw a creature that strangled must be,
 And to save her life I gave an hundred pounds,
 And carried her home with me to fair London town
 There she's my housekeeper while I'm in this land
 And when of my coming she did understand,
 She flowered this robe, and gave great charge to me
 To let it be seen by your great majesty.

This prince cried, Behold this robe which I wear
 Is of the same flower and spot, I dare swear;
 Thy maid wrought them both & is my daughter dear
 I have not heard of her these seven long years.

To pay a visit to a neighbouring prince,
 I sent her in a ship, but has ne'er seen her since,
 And I was afraid the sea had been her grave;
 But I heard since, to Turkey she was taken a slave
 For the loss of my child, who I tho't had been dead
 A well full of tears in my court has been shed,
 My princess, her mother, for her could not rest,
 And her groans drew millions of tears from her breast.

Thy ship shall be richly laden with speed, (break
 And I'll send a ship for her convoy indeed;
 And because, for thy love, thou sav'd my child's life
 Bring her alive to me, and I'll make her thy wife

And if thou should not live to bring her to me
 The man who brings her home her husband shall be
 And one hundred thousand a year he shall have,
 Therefore take care my dear child's life to save.

The ship being laden, the anchor was weigh'd
 And he with his convoy to England soon sail'd,
 To fair London city, and home he did go,
 And gave the young princess good tidings to know

P A R T III.

HE said, noble lady, I've great news to tell,
 The old prince your father and mother are well,
 and your royal parents this thing have design'd,
 in bonds of wedlock we both shall be join'd.
 Perhaps noble lady, you will not agree
 to marry a poor man, especially me.

For, was you a beggar, I would be your wife,
 because, when just dying, you saved my life.

I ne'er shall forget that great token of love,
 of all men now breathing I prize you above;
 and since 'tis so order'd, I'm well pleas'd I vow,
 I'm glad my dear father this thing will allow.

Pray sell off your goods that you have in store,
 and give all the money to those that are poor;
 and let us be jogging with speed over the main,
 for I long to see my dear parents again.

This thing was soon done, and they sail'd away
 in that ship her father sent for a convoy;
 but mark what happened on the ocean wide,
 to deprive the factor of his royal bride.

The captain that convoy'd him over the deep,
 one night then as the factor lay in a deep sleep,
 being then under sail, overboard did him throw,
 saying, now I shall have this young creature I know.

There happened to be a small island at hand
 which the factor swam to, as I understand,
 and there I will leave him some time for to mourn,
 and unto the ship again I'll return.

On morning, as soon as day light it did peep,
 the captain waked the princess from her sleep,
 and said, Noble lady, the factor's not here,
 he's fall'n overboard and drowned, I fear,
 to hear this sad news, then her eyes they did flow.
 He said, Noble lady, now since it is so,

There's none here can help it, do not grieved be,
In two or three days you your parents shall see.

And when he arriv'd at the desired port,
The princess went weeping to her father's court,
Who gladly receiv'd her with joy and great mirth,
Saying, Where is the man that freed you from death?

The captain replied, as we all lay asleep,
He fell overboard, and was drown'd in the deep;
You said that the man who did your child home bring
Should have her, & I hope you'll perform this thing

Yes, that was my promise, the prince then replied
What say'st thou, my daughter, will you be his bride?
She said, Yes, dear father, but first, if you please,
For him that sav'd my life I'll mourn forty days.

Then into close mourning the princess then went,
For loss of her good friend in tears to lament;
And there I will leave her to mourn for a while,
And turn to the factor who's left in the isle.

P A R T IV.

IN this desert island the factor he lay,
In floods of tears weeping, two nights and a day;
At length on the ocean appear'd in his view
A little old man paddling in a canoe.

The factor call'd to him, which caus'd him to stay
And drawing near to him, the old man did say, (flow
Friend how came you here? Then with eyes that did
He told him his secrets and where he would go.

The old man said to him, if there thou dost lie,
With grief and great hunger in short time thou't die,
What wilt thou give me, & to court I'll thee guide?
I have nothing to give you, the factor replied.

If thou wilt but promise, and be true to me,
To give me the first babe she has unto thee
When thirty months old, to the court I'll you bring;
I'll not release thee without this very thing.

The factor consider'd this thing would cause grief
and without it for him there was no relief;

He cried, Life is sweet, and my life for to save,
carry me to that place, and your will you shall have

So then he was carried to the court, and when
he came in at the gate, he saw his lady then
looking out at a window, who seeing him pass
from sorrow to joy transported she was.

He then at the court with great joy was receiv'd,
here the lady met him, who for him was griev'd,
and said, my jewel, my love, and my dear,
where have you tarried? pray let me now hear.

Where so long he tarried he there did relate,
and by what means he came to her father's gate;

and said, I was thrown overboard in my sleep,
think it was the captain threw me in the deep.

With that the ship captain was sent for with speed,
and hearing the factor was come there indeed,

he shew himself guilty like a cruel knave,
and was cast into the ocean, which proved his grave.

Next day with great triumph and joy, as we find,
the factor and lady in marriage were join'd;

within the compass and space of two years,
they had a son and a daughter most dear.

The son was the first born, a perfect beauty,
and was well belov'd of the whole family,

when thirty months old came the man for the child
who released the factor from this desert isle.

When the factor saw him his eyes they did flow,
and he gave his lady and parents to know

how he was forced to make that promise, or lie
on that desert isle, and with hunger die.

With a grim look this old man then appears,
which made the court tremble, and fill'd them with fears

What shall we do? sure 'tis no man, (fears
will have our darling do all that we can.

He said it was promised, and I'll have my due,
 There's one babe for me, and another for you,
 I will have your first born, give him unto me;
 With that the whole family wept bitterly.

The babe's mother cried, I am griev'd to the heart
 To think I with such a dear infant must part,
 To one that will carry it the Lord knows where,
 And perhaps in pieces my darling will tear.

With that she embraced it, and down the tears fell
 And having kissed it, bid it farewell,
 Saying, It is for the sake of my husband and I
 We part with our first born though for him I die.

So then this grim ghost to her husband did say,
 Sir, do you remember in Turkey one day,
 You saw a dead body lying on the ground,
 And to have it buried you gave fifty pounds.

Sir, I am the spirit of that dead body,
 I saved your life for that great love shown to me,
 You may keep your darling, & the Lord bless you
 So away it vanished quite out of the hall,

Being gone, the old prince and princess likewise
 The babes tender parents with tears in their eyes,
 With joy then embraces the darling their son,
 Saying, child had thou left us we had all been
 done.

Now I'll leave the court full of joy and great mirth
 To love one another while God gives them breath
 And now by this factor we may see indeed,
 No mortal can prevent what fate has decreed.

F I N I S.