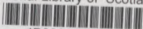




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Aladdin, having seen the former Genie, was less frightened than his mother, who fainted away, while he said boldly, "I am hungry, bring me something to eat."—Page 17.

ABS-1-84-189 (1-4)

ALADDIN;

OR,

THE WONDERFUL LAMP.

An Eastern Tale.

EMBELLISHED WITH ENGRAVINGS ON WOOD.



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ALADDIN ;

OR,

THE WONDERFUL LAMP.

An Eastern Tale.

ALADDIN was the son of Mustapha, a very poor tailor in one of the rich provinces of China. When the boy was old enough to learn a trade, his father took him into his own work-shop ; but Aladdin, having been brought up in a very careless manner, loved play more than work, neglecting his business, and frequenting the company of all sorts of idle boys and vagabonds. His father dying while he was yet very young, he spent his whole time in the streets, and his poor mother was obliged to spin cotton night and day to procure a sufficiency of the coarsest fare for their support. She did this the more willingly, as she loved him dearly, and always promised herself that, as

her son grew older, he would be ashamed of his idleness, and become a worthy and industrious man : And she was not deceived in this expectation.

One day, as Aladdin was playing as usual amidst a whole troop of vagabond boys, a stranger passing by, stood still to observe him. This stranger was a famous African Magician, who, having need of the assistance of some ignorant person, no sooner beheld Aladdin than he knew, by his whole air, manners, and appearance, that he was an idle and good-for-nothing boy, and very fit to be made a tool of. The Magician then artfully inquired of some persons standing near, the name and character of Aladdin, and their answers confirmed the opinion he had already formed of his bad habits.

The stranger, now pressing in among the crowd of boys, clapped his hand on Aladdin's shoulder, and said, "My good lad, art thou not the son of Mustapha, the tailor?"

"Yes, Sir," said Aladdin, "but my father has been dead this long time."

"Alas!" cried the stranger, "what afflicting tidings! I am thy father's brother, child, and have been many years travelling into foreign countries; and now, that I expected to be happy with my brother at home, I find him dead."

Aladdin, who had never heard of any brother

of his father's, stood like one stupified, till his pretended uncle pulled out two pieces of gold, and gave them to him, bidding him run home and desire his mother to get a supper ready, as he intended to spend a few hours with his beloved sister-in-



law that very evening. Aladdin, having pointed out the house, hastened home with the gold and the tidings to his mother, who was no less amazed than himself. She had never heard her husband mention more than one brother, and that one was also a tailor, and had died before Aladdin was born. She could not, however, she thought, doubt the word of a gentleman who had sent her two

pieces of gold ; and she went joyfully to market, where she bought excellent provisions, and was cooking them in her best manner, when the Magician knocked at the door. He entered, followed by a porter bringing all kinds of delicious fruits and sweetmeats for the dessert, and plenty of good wine. Having saluted his dear sister-in-law, as he called her, and having said a great many affectionate things of his deceased brother Mustapha, they sat down to supper, after which the Magician, looking round the house, said, " My dear sister, it grieves me much to see such an appearance of poverty about you. I hope my nephew Aladdin does his duty by you ; it is time that he should be able to supply you with many comforts."

At these words Aladdin hung down his head in the greatest confusion imaginable. He could not utter a syllable in his justification ; on the contrary, he felt quite ashamed of himself. His mother was also silent for a few moments, and then replied, " Indeed, my honoured brother, it almost breaks my heart to be obliged to tell you that Aladdin, though now fifteen years of age, minds nothing but play, and all that I can earn is scarcely sufficient to get us bread. I almost despair of his amendment, and should I die, what would become of him !"

The poor old woman burst into tears, and the

ALADDIN.

Magician, turning to Aladdin, said, " This is a sad account, nephew ; but it is never too late to mend. You must think of getting your own living, and I will assist you to the very utmost of my power. What think you of keeping a shop ?" Aladdin was overjoyed at this proposition, for he thought there was very little labour in keeping a shop, and he told his uncle he had a greater inclination to that business than any other. " Well," said the stranger, " I will keep my promise, and you shall have a shop well stocked with all sorts of merchandise. To-morrow morning I will clothe you handsomely, and then we will look about for a proper situation."

Aladdin's mother fell on her knees to thank the Magician for his kindness to her son ; and after he had taken his leave, they sat up very late talking of the shop, the uncle, and Aladdin's new clothes.

The next morning early the Magician came for Aladdin, and carried him to a great warehouse where all sorts of clothes were sold ready made. Aladdin was presently equipped in a neat suit, for which his uncle paid liberally. He then led the boy through the principal streets of the city, pointing out to him the finest shops, and many rarities, till they came to the extremity of the town. As it was a fine day, the Magician proposed that they should continue their walk, and they passed through the public gardens, Aladdin becoming

more and more delighted every instant with the fine things he saw, and the conversation of his uncle, who at length invited him to sit down beside a beautiful fountain, and regale himself with some cakes and fruit he had purposely brought with him.

Aladdin having feasted heartily on these dainties, they rose up and pursued their walk, crossing innumerable fine gardens and fine meadows, the Magician all the while telling a number of diverting stories, till they arrived at the entrance of a narrow valley bounded on each side by lofty and barren mountains. "Dear uncle," said Aladdin, "where are we going now? See we have left all the pretty gardens a long way behind us! Pray, let us go back; let us make haste from this frightful place."

"No, no," said the Magician, seizing hold of Aladdin's arm; "no going back again at present. I will show you more extraordinary things than any you have seen yet, and what no person ever saw before." Aladdin followed his uncle still farther into the valley, till they seemed to be surrounded with high and black mountains, and had lost all view of the country behind them. Suddenly the Magician stood still, and in a rough tone of voice, perfectly unlike his former mode of speaking, commanded Aladdin to gather together some loose sticks for a fire. Aladdin obeyed trembling,

and when he had collected a large heap, the Magician set them on fire. Presently the blaze rose high, and the Magician threw a powder into the midst of the fire, and pronounced some mystical words, which Aladdin did not understand. Instantly they were surrounded by a thick smoke ;



the earth shook beneath their feet ; the mountain burst asunder, and discovered a broad flat stone, with a large brass ring fixed in the middle of it.

Poor Aladdin felt so exceedingly terrified, that he was going to run away ; but the Magician, perceiving his design, gave him such a box on the ear, that he knocked him down. Aladdin soon got

up again, and with tears running down his cheeks, said, "What have I done, uncle, that you should use me so cruelly?"

"Child," said the Magician in a kinder tone of voice, "I did not mean to strike thee so severely; but thou shouldst not think of running away from me, when I only brought thee hither to do thee service. Know, Aladdin, that under this stone lies hid a treasure that will make you richer than the greatest monarch on the earth, and of which I alone know how to make you master." On hearing this, Aladdin forgot his box on the ear, and eagerly promised to do whatever he was desired.

"Come, then," said the Magician, "take hold of that brass ring, and lift up the stone."

When the stone was pulled up, there appeared a deep hollow cave in the earth, and a narrow flight of steps. "Come, child," said the Magician, "you must immediately descend into that cavern. At the bottom of these steps you will find a door standing open, and this leads to a long vaulted place which is divided into three large halls, filled with gold and silver. After entering at this door, you must pass through these halls quickly, without touching any thing you see there, and, remember, your disobedience will be punished by instant death. When you arrive at the end of the third hall, you will find a very fine garden, plant-

ed with trees bearing the most beautiful and delicate fruits, which you must cross by a path that will bring you to a magnificent terrace, where you will perceive a lamp burning in a niche. Take the lamp down, and put out the light, and when you



have thrown away the wick, and poured out the oil, put the lamp in your bosom, and bring it to me. If you feel a desire for any of the fruit of the garden, you may gather as much as you please.

After having said this, the Magician drew a ring off his finger, and putting it on Aladdin's, informed him that it was a preservative against all

evil, if he faithfully obeyed his directions. "Now you must go down boldly, my son," he added, "and we shall both be rich and happy all the rest of our lives."

Aladdin immediately jumped into the cave, and went down the steps, where he found the three halls just as the Magician had described them. Although the sight of so much money was a strong temptation to a poor boy, yet he passed through them without touching any thing; he then crossed the garden without stopping, and taking down the lamp from the niche, threw out the wick and the liquor, and, as the Magician had desired him, put the lamp into his bosom. As he came down from the terrace, he was greatly surprised to observe that the branches of the trees were loaded, as he thought, with beautiful pieces of glass of all colours, that dazzled his eyes with their lustre; and though he would rather have found peaches, figs, and grapes, yet these pieces of coloured glass were so very pretty, that he could not help filling his pockets and two purses his uncle had given him with them. He likewise wrapped as many as he could in the skirts of his coat, and, thus encumbered, made haste to return to his uncle. The Magician was expecting him at the mouth of the cave with extreme impatience. "Pray, uncle," said Aladdin, when he came to the top of the

stairs, "give me your hand to assist me in getting out."

"Yes, yes, but give me the lamp first," said the Magician. "I cannot, dear uncle, till I am out of this place," replied Aladdin.

"Wretch!" roared the Magician in a fury, "deliver it this instant."

"No, I will not," said Aladdin, "till you have helped me out of the cave."

The Magician's eyes flashed fire: "Villain, thou shalt repent thy obstinacy!" he exclaimed, stretching out his arm to strike Aladdin, when some powder he still held in his hand dropped into the fire. The rock shook with thunder, the great stone moved into its place, and Aladdin remained buried alive in this cavern of treasure. In vain he cried and wrung his hands; his cries could not be heard; the doors of the halls were closed by the same enchantment that had closed the rock, and he was left to perish in total darkness.

Aladdin remained in this state two days without tasting food, and on the third day he looked on death as inevitable. Claspng his hands with agony, to think of his own destruction and his mother's sorrow, he chanced to press the ring the Magician had put on his finger, and immediately an enormous Genie rose out of the earth, and said, "What wouldst thou have with me? I am ready

to obey thy commands—I and the other slave of that ring.”

Aladdin, trembling with affright, said, “ Deliver me, I beseech thee, from this place, if thou art able.” He had no sooner spoke than the earth



opened, and he found himself on the very spot where he had been brought by the Magician. He remembered the way he had come, and hastened back to the city ; but, on reaching home, the joy of finding himself safe, and the fatigue he had undergone, overcame his strength, and he fainted at the door.

When Aladdin had recovered from his fit, and had been embraced a thousand times by his mo-

ther, he hastened to relate to her all that had befallen him. "Ah, my son," she cried, "I see clearly now that that man was no brother of thy father's. He was a wicked enchanter, who meant to make you useful to him in some bad purpose or other. Let it be a warning to thee, Aladdin, to work for thy own subsistence, and then thou wilt not want the assistance of deceitful strangers or pretended uncles."

Aladdin having promised his mother to attend to her good advice, entreated her to bring him some food, as he was almost starved. Alas! the poor old woman had neither food nor money in the house; for while her son had been absent, she had neglected her spinning to run up and down the streets in search of him.

"Well, mother," said Aladdin, "do not mind it. Pray, dry your tears, and reach me the lamp I put on the shelf just now, and I will go and sell it." The old woman took down the lamp, and, thinking it would sell better if it were cleaner, she began to rub it with sand. Instantly a hideous Genie stood before her, and said, in a voice like thunder, "What wouldst thou have? I am ready to obey thy commands—I and all the other slaves of that lamp."

Aladdin, having seen the former Genie, was less frightened than his mother, who fainted away,

while he said boldly, "I am hungry, bring me something to eat." The Genie disappeared, and presently returned with twelve large plates of silver, full of the most savoury meats, six white loaves, two bottles of wine, and two silver drinking cups. Having placed them all in order on a table, he vanished.

Aladdin sprinkled some water on his mother, and entreated her, as she recovered from her swoon, to arise and eat of the goodly banquet.

"What!" cried the old woman, looking round in amazement, "has the Sultan been informed of our poverty, and sent us all these fine things from his own table?"

"Come, mother," replied Aladdin, "let us eat now, and talk after we have done dinner." Accordingly they wasted no time, and having dined plentifully, set aside enough to last them for two days more.

On hearing that the Genie had provided this repast, Aladdin's mother besought him to sell the lamp, and have nothing to do with Genies; but Aladdin was resolved not to part with the lamp, which he perceived to be of infinite value, both from the service he had just received, and from the eagerness of the Magician to get possession of it.

He assured his mother, however, that he would

never use it but in cases of great necessity, and would endeavour to get some employment, or learn some trade. At night they were greatly surprised to see the bright light that issued from the heap of pieces of coloured glass that Aladdin had laid in a corner of the beaufet; but though they were astonished at it, they were not in the least aware, that, instead of pieces of glass, they were in reality jewels of immense value; and the mother and son went as quietly to sleep as if no such treasure had been in their possession.

On the following morning Aladdin sold one of his silver plates to a Jew, to purchase a few necessaries that were wanting in their dwelling; he would have sold another to buy his mother new clothes, but she would wear none that she had not earned by her own labour. Aladdin next went about among the merchants and shopkeepers seeking employment. At first they were afraid to trust him, but, seeing his sober deportment, they at length employed him on trifling errands, and by degrees he gained a very comfortable livelihood, and was respected for his industry and good conduct.

One day, while Aladdin was walking through the city, he heard a proclamation, commanding all the people to retire into their houses, as the beautiful Princess Balroudour, whom no one must

look upon, was coming to the public baths. Aladdin was a long way from home; people were running this way and that way, and he was quite at a loss where to go; and hearing the drums and trumpets that preceded the Princess approaching, he ran into a large hall, and hid himself behind a folding door. Now, it happened that this very



hall was the entrance to the baths; and as soon as the Princess passed the gate, she pulled off her veil, thinking she was only surrounded by her own slaves. There was a crevice in the door, which permitted Aladdin to see the Princess as well as those beside her; and her uncommon beauty

made so deep an impression on him, that he could think of nothing else, and neglected his employment and his meals. At length, unable to conceal his love any longer, "Mother," said he, "I love the Princess Balroudour to distraction, and you must demand her for me in marriage of the Sultan."

The old woman left off spinning, to gaze upon her son, whom she concluded to be mad; but upon his repeating that he was resolved to be the husband of the lovely Princess, she could not forbear bursting into a loud laugh, and bade him remember he was the son of Mustapha the tailor, and no prince or governor, who alone could pretend to be the son-in-law of a Sultan.

"Mother," said Aladdin, "I am not so poor as you imagine. Since I have frequented the shops of the jewellers, I have learned to know the value of those things I used to call pieces of glass; it is with those things that I intend to purchase the good-will of the Sultan."

Aladdin's mother laughed again, and refused to hear any thing more of such foolish projects.

Poor Aladdin meanwhile pined almost to death, and when his mother saw him nearly at the last gasp, she promised to go to the Sultan, if that would restore him to health. Aladdin was overjoyed at this, and sent her to borrow a large china dish, which he filled with the finest jewels

from his heap, and after tying it up carefully in two napkins, the poor old woman set out for the Sultan's palace with a heavy heart, fearing she should be punished for her presumption. On coming to the divan, where the Sultan was administering justice, she placed herself opposite the throne, and waited in silence till her turn should come to be called forward. When the court was nearly empty, the vizier bade her approach. She instantly fell on her knees, and besought the Sultan's pardon, who commanded her to speak on and fear nothing. She then related the story of her son's falling in love with the Princess, and the advice she had given him, stopping at every three words, to entreat the Sultan's forgiveness, who only smiled, and asked what was tied up in her napkin. She presented the dish to the vizier, who handed it to the Sultan.

When the dish was uncovered, the Sultan actually started with surprise, for he had never before seen jewels of such size and lustre. "Your son," said he, "can be no ordinary person, if he affords to make such presents as these." The vizier now approached, and whispered something to the Sultan, who nodded, and then, turning to Aladdin's mother, said, "Go, tell your son that he shall have the Princess Balroudour in marriage as soon as he sends me forty basins of massy gold,

filled with such jewels as these, carried by forty black slaves, who shall be led by forty white slaves, all magnificently clothed. Go, hasten home, and declare my will to your son."



Aladdin's mother retired in the greatest grief and consternation. She was surprised to see that her son only smiled at the Sultan's demand; she concluded, therefore, he had already got the better of his foolish passion, and went joyfully to market to buy provisions for their dinner. As soon as she was gone, Aladdin rubbed the lamp, and the Genie stood before him, whom he commanded to bring the basins of gold, the jewels, and the black

and white slaves, as the Sultan had required : and presently the house was filled with this splendid train of slaves most magnificently dressed, bearing basins of massy gold, filled with the rarest jewels.

When Aladdin's mother returned from market she trembled to see these wonderful things ; but as her son entreated her to make haste back to the divan, she stayed to ask no questions, but put herself at the head of the procession, which drew after it all the idle and curious people of the city. When she entered the divan, she prostrated herself at the foot of the throne, and said, " Sire, my son Aladdin is sensible that this present he sends your majesty is much below the worth of the Princess Balroudour ; but he hopes your majesty will accept it as a token of his submission to your royal commands."

The Sultan was not able immediately to reply, he was so taken up with the beauty of the slaves, who looked like so many kings, and whose habits were even richer than his own. At length he said, " Go, bring your son hither, that I may bestow on him the hand of my daughter."

Aladdin now again summoned the Genie of the lamp, who transported him invisibly to a fine bath of rose-water. Afterwards he was dressed by the hands of the Genie in the most sumptuous apparel. A horse, that surpassed the best in the

Sultan's stables, was provided for him, whose saddle and housings were of pure gold. He had a train of slaves ready, finely mounted, and bearing magnificent presents for the Princess. Another set of slaves were ready to attend on Aladdin's mother, for whom they had brought suitable dresses and an equipage.



Aladdin mounted his horse, and so great a change had the care of the Genie made on his appearance, that no one knew him to be poor Aladdin the tailor's son, but took him for some mighty prince, who had been accustomed to the same grandeur and magnificence from the hour

of his birth. When the Sultan beheld him, he was no less surprised at his good mien, fine shape and dignity of demeanour, than at the elegance and costliness of his apparel. Aladdin would have thrown himself at the feet of the Sultan, but was prevented by the Sultan's embracing him, and seating him on his right hand.

They conversed together some hours, and the Sultan was so charmed with his good sense and modesty, that he proposed to marry the young lovers that very evening. Aladdin objected to this, saying, that he must first build a palace to receive his Princess; and entreated the Sultan would grant him a piece of ground opposite the gates of the royal palace for this purpose. The Sultan readily agreed to this proposal, and they separated—Aladdin returning home to employ the Genie of the lamp to build a palace, and the Sultan retiring to his daughter's apartment, to congratulate her on the happiness that awaited her.

When the Sultan arose the next morning, how great was his amazement to behold, opposite to his own, a palace of the purest architecture, and half the inhabitants of the city already gathered in crowds to gaze on this wonder! He was presently informed that Aladdin waited to conduct his majesty to the new palace.

The Sultan was more and more amazed at every

step ; for the walls were built of wedges of gold and silver, and the ornaments were of jasper, agate, and porphyry, intermixed with diamonds, rubies, emeralds, amethysts, and every thing that was most rare and beautiful. The treasury was full of gold, and the offices filled with domestics ; the stables contained the finest horses and carriages, with grooms and equerries in splendid liveries. In short, the Sultan acknowledged that all the wealth of his dominions could not purchase such costly rarities as were to be found in the hall of Aladdin's palace.

Aladdin and the Princess were speedily married, and lived for some time very happily ; but the fame of his magnificence having spread to all the corners of the world, at length reached the ears of the Magician in Africa, who immediately guessed the source from which Aladdin derived all his riches, and determined to make himself master of the wonderful lamp. After disguising his person, he travelled into China, and soon arrived at the city where Aladdin's palace stood. Here he found, on inquiry, that the Sultan and Aladdin were gone out upon a hunting expedition, which would detain them from home for some days ; and he also learnt by his art, that the lamp was placed on the cornice of the hall of twenty-four windows, where it always stood when Aladdin went out on hunting parties.

The Magician took his measures accordingly, and having purchased a number of beautiful lamps, he placed them in a basket, and then proceeded towards the palace of Aladdin. On approaching near to it, he bawled out, "Who'll exchange old lamps for new ones?" This brought a crowd of people and children around him, who all



thought he was mad to give his new lamps for old ones. However, he still went forward, till he came under the windows of the apartments belonging to the Princess, all the while crying aloud, "Who'll exchange old lamps for new ones?"

The slaves attending on the Princess all ran to

the windows, laughing at the odd cry. "Oh," said one of the slaves, "come, let us try if the fool means what he says; there is an ugly old lamp lying on the cornice of the hall with twenty-four windows; we will put a new one in its place, if the old fellow is really in earnest." The Princess agreed to this proposal, and away ran one of the slaves with the lamp to the Magician, who willingly gave her the best he had among his new ones, and retired to enjoy the triumph of his revenge.

As soon as night arrived, he summoned the Genie of the lamp, and commanded him to transport him, the palace, and the Princess, to the remotest corner of Africa. The order was instantly obeyed.

The confusion and grief of the Sultan were indescribable, when he found the palace vanished, and his daughter lost. The people ran in terror through the streets, and the soldiers were sent in search of Aladdin, who was not returned from hunting.

Aladdin, on hearing that his palace and his wife were gone, fainted away, and was soon after dragged before the Sultan like a criminal, and would have been beheaded, had not the Sultan been afraid to enrage the people, who were all fond of Aladdin. "Go, wretch," cried the Sultan, "I grant thee thy life; but if ever thou appear-

est before me again, thy death shall be the consequence, unless in forty days thou bringest me tidings of my daughter."

Aladdin left the palace, not knowing whither to turn his steps. At length he stopped at a brook to wash his eyes, that smarted with the tears he had shed: as he stooped, his foot slipped, and catching hold of a piece of rock to save himself from falling, he pressed the Magician's ring, which he still wore on his finger, and the Genie of the ring appeared before him, saying, "What wouldst thou have?"—"Oh, powerful Genie!" cried Aladdin, "bring my palace back to the place where yesterday it stood!"

"What you command," replied the Genie, "is not in my power; you must address yourself to the Genie of the lamp for that service."

"Then I command thee," said Aladdin, "to transport me to the place where it now stands." Instantly Aladdin found himself beside his own palace, which stood in a meadow not far from a great city; and the Princess Balroudour was then walking in her own chamber, weeping for his loss. Happening to approach the window, she beheld Aladdin under it, and making a sign to him not to betray his joy, she sent a slave to bring him in by a private door. The Princess and her husband having mingled their tears and

embraces, Aladdin said, " Tell me, my Princess, what has become of an old lamp which I left on the cornice of the hall of four and twenty windows ?" The Princess related the manner in which



her slave had exchanged it for a new one, and observed, that the tyrant, in whose power she was, always carried that very lamp in his bosom. Aladdin was certain that it could be no other person but his old enemy the African Magician, who had carried off his wife and palace, by getting possession of the lamp, and been the source of all his grief. The Magician had made the Princess believe that her father had ordered Al-

addin to be beheaded, and tried to persuade her to accept of him for a husband ; but although he came every day to enforce his suit, she would not listen to him.

After some consideration, they concerted a plan in order to get possession of the lamp. Aladdin went into the city in the disguise of a slave, where he procured a powder, that, on being swallowed, would instantly cause a death-like sleep, and the Princess invited the Magician to sup with her. As she had never been so polite to him before, he was quite delighted with her kindness ; and while they were at table, she ordered a slave to bring two cups of wine which she had herself prepared, and after pretending to taste the one she held in her hand, she asked the Magician to change cups, as was the custom, she said, between lovers in China. He joyfully seized the goblet, and drinking it all at a draught, fell senseless on the floor.

Aladdin was at hand to snatch the lamp from his bosom, and throwing the traitor out upon the grass of the meadow, the Genie was summoned, and instantly the Princess, the palace, and all that it contained, were transported to their original station. The morning of the return of Aladdin's palace, the Sultan had risen by break of day to indulge his sorrows, when, to his unspeak-

able joy, he beheld the vacancy filled up. He summoned his guards, and hastened to embrace his daughter ; and during a whole week nothing was to be seen but illuminations, fireworks, balls, and entertainments, throughout the city, in honour of Aladdin's return.

Aladdin did not now forget to carry the lamp always about with him, and things went on well for some time. But when the Magician had slept off his potion, and found the lamp and palace gone, he travelled once more into China, where he went to the cell of a holy woman named Fatima, who was renowned through the city for her sanctity, and curing the headache. The cruel Magician having killed the poor old woman and buried her, dressed himself in her garments, and then, staining his face and eyebrows exactly to resemble the colour of her's, he walked out into the city, and counterfeited so well, that every body believed him to be the holy woman, and followed him in crowds, begging his blessing. At length he approached the palace, and the Princess, hearing that Fatima was in the street, sent a slave to invite her into the palace.

The pretended Fatima was kindly entertained by the Princess, who led her through the apartments of the palace, and shewed her the magnificent hall of twenty-four windows. " Princess,"

said the false Fatima, "forgive my offering my opinion, but I think if a roc's egg were hung up in the middle of the dome, this hall would have no parallel in the four quarters of the world, and your palace would be the wonder of the universe."

"My good Fatima," said the Princess, "what sort of a bird is a roc, and where can I get an egg?"

"Princess," replied Fatima, "it is a bird of prodigious size, which inhabits the top of Mount Caucasus; the architect that built your palace can get you one."

The pretended Fatima would now have withdrawn, but the Princess insisted on her continuing in the palace some days. That very evening Aladdin, who had been absent on a journey, returned home sooner than was expected, and found the Princess somewhat melancholy; he begged to know the cause, and she confessed she was wishing she could have the dome of the grand hall ornamented with a roc's egg. "Beautiful Princess," said Aladdin, "your wish shall be gratified." He instantly withdrew, and calling for the Genie of the lamp, said, "Good Genie, I command thee, in the name of the lamp, to hang up a roc's egg in the centre of the hall."

The Genie, on hearing these words, uttered so loud and terrible a cry, that the palace shook

with the noise, and Aladdin had nearly fallen to the ground. "What!" said he, "after every thing I and my fellow slaves have done to serve thee, dost thou command me to bring my master, and hang him up in the midst of this dome? This attempt deserves my utmost vengeance, and I would reduce your palace into a heap of ashes, but that I know you are not the contriver of this



wish. The African Magician is now under your roof disguised as the holy woman Fatima, whom he has murdered. Go, punish his crimes, or your own destruction is inevitable." The Genie then vanished from Aladdin, who was greatly agitated; but, after some deliberation, he threw himself

upon a sofa, and complained of a violent headache.

The Princess, in order to relieve her husband's pain, ran to bring the holy woman, and the pretended Fatima came with one hand lifted up, as if to bless Aladdin, while the other grasped a dagger concealed in the folds of her garment. Aladdin kept a watchful eye on her, and as soon as she came near him, seized the hand that held the dagger, and stabbed the traitor to the heart!

The Princess began to scream and tear her hair with grief, thinking that her husband had killed the holy Fatima, till Aladdin, snatching off the hood of the cloak, discovered the Magician concealed beneath it, which changed her grief into joy, that they had escaped his wicked snares.

In a short time after this, the Sultan died without a son, and Aladdin and the Princess Balrou-dour ascended the throne, where they reigned together many years, and left behind them a numerous, virtuous, and an illustrious progeny.

THE END.

x

~~James~~

James

Wm. H. Brown

