

ALADDIN



OR THE

WONDERFUL LAMP



—OF—
H. MARLA

3 + 7

CHILDREN'S BOOK
COLLECTION



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LOS ANGELES

"Well Bill, my grandpa,"

say.

"Any thing gone' on in here

now he'd look around in a sad like way,

and tell me I was almost gone

's big as my father."

Then gaze far away
the pleasant meadows, then moan

if your father's only alive today."







ALADDIN;

OR,

THE WONDERFUL LAMP.

WITH

SIXTEEN ILLUSTRATIONS,

BY

FELIX O. C. DARLEY.



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P R E F A C E .

THE Arabian Nights' Entertainments are perhaps the only series of stories that give a correct view of ancient Oriental manners and customs. Some of the tales, however, have become more popular than others. Among the most noted, that of ALADDIN stands deservedly pre-eminent. Translated into almost every language, it has obtained a high rank in all. It has been dramatized, we know not how frequently, and, at the same time, has served as a theme for innumerable poets. The thousand ways in which it has become known, have rendered it as familiar as a household word ; while, with the rest of the series, it has grown classic, and obtained with them a place in almost every well-selected library. Many of the romances, however, though innocent to maturer age, are calculated to awaken ideas and create impressions in early youth which parents might consider objectionable. ALADDIN, however, had very few faults of the kind, and 'revised, modified, and corrected, as it has been in the present edition, has become a highly-wrought moral story, calculated to produce a pleasing and permanent effect. Children are always poets, and whatever assimilates itself to their tone of mind must necessarily

create a strong sympathetic impression. Truth, therefore, may be clothed in the garb of romance, without losing any of its characteristics, while the dress it wears never fails to invest it with additional charms. Over-careful parents might suggest that the machinery of Oriental stories is fabulous—that such beings as Genii never existed, and that magic and necromancy are exploded propositions; but children are almost as well aware of the fact as themselves. Where they are not, a word will set them right; and the opportunity of explanation is one every parent should grasp at; for early instruction on such a subject can never be eradicated.



ALADDIN;

OR

THE WONDERFUL LAMP.

IN the capital of one of the richest and most extensive kingdoms of Cathay, the name of which does not at this moment occur, there lived a tailor, whose name was Mustafa, who had no other distinction than that of his trade. This tailor was very poor, as the profits of his trade barely produced enough for himself, his wife, and a son, with whom God had blessed him, to subsist upon.

Mustafa's son, whose name was Aladdin, had been brought up in a very negligent manner, and had been left so much to himself, that he had contracted the most vicious habits of idleness and mischief, and had no reverence for the commands of his father or mother. Before he had passed the years of childhood, his parents could no longer keep him in the house. He generally went out early in the morning, and spent the whole day in playing in the public streets with other boys about the same age, who were as idle as himself.

Arrived at an age when he was old enough to learn a trade, his father, who was unable to have him taught any other than that he himself followed, took him to his shop, and began to show him how he should use his needle. But neither kindness nor the fear of punishment was able to

restrain his volatile and restless disposition; nor could his father, by any method, make him satisfied with what he was about. No sooner was Mustafa's back turned, than Aladdin was off, and returned no more during the whole day. His father continually chastised him, yet still Aladdin remained incorrigible; and Mustafa, to his great sorrow, was obliged to abandon him to his idle, vagabond kind of life. This conduct of his son gave him great pain, and the vexation of not being able to induce him to pursue a proper and reputable course of life, brought on so obstinate and fatal a disease, that at the end of a few months it put an end to his existence.

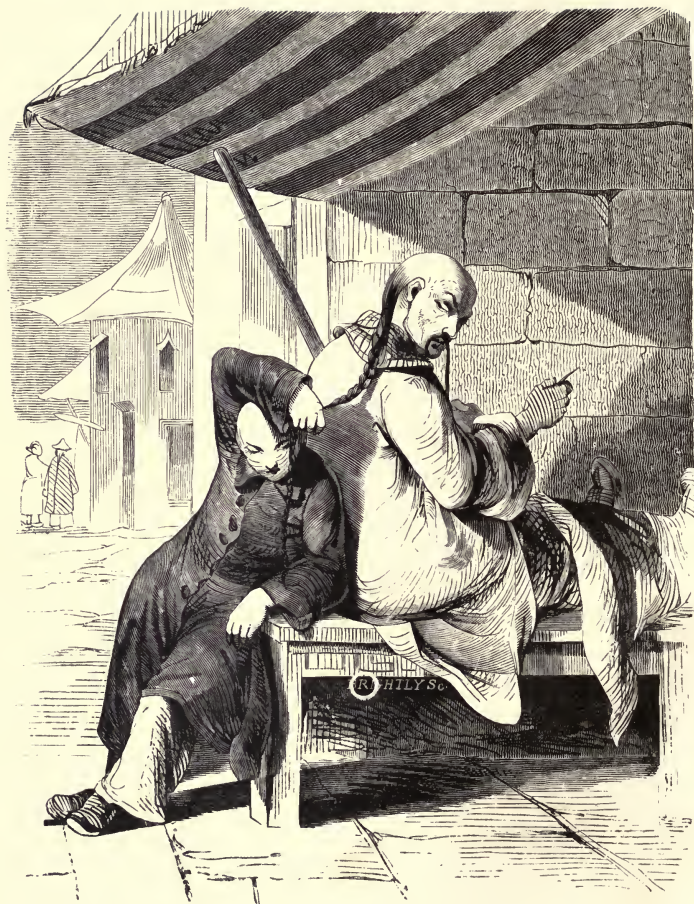
As Aladdin's mother saw that her son never would follow the trade of his father, she shut up his shop, and converted all his stock and implements of trade into money, upon which, added to what she could earn by spinning cotton, she and her son subsisted.

Aladdin, now no longer restrained by dread of his father, and regarding whatever his mother might say, so little, that he even threatened her with violence, whenever she attempted to remonstrate with him, gave himself completely up to a life of indolence and licentiousness. He continued to associate with persons of his own age, and was fonder than ever of entering into all their tricks and fun. He pursued this course of life till he was fifteen years old, without showing the least spark of understanding of any sort, and without making the least reflection upon what was to be his future lot. He was in this state, when, as he was one day playing with his companions in one of the public places, as was his usual custom, a stranger, who was going by, stopped and looked at him.

This stranger was in fact, a noted and learned magician, called, for distinction, the African Magician. And indeed he was so styled with the greater propriety, as he was a native of Africa, and had arrived from that part of the world only two days before.

Whether this magician, who was well skilled in physiognomy, had remarked in the countenance of Aladdin the signs of such a disposition as was best adapted to the purpose for which he had undertaken so long a





journey, or not, is uncertain ; but he very adroitly made himself acquainted with his family, discovered who he was, and the sort of character and disposition he possessed. He was no sooner informed of what he wished, than he went up to the young man, and taking him to a little distance from his companions, he asked him if his father were not called Mustafa, and a tailor by trade. "Yes, sir," replied Aladdin, "but he has been dead this long time."

At this speech the African magician threw his arms around Aladdin's neck, embraced and kissed him for some time, while the tears seemed to run from his eyes, and his bosom to heave with sighs. Aladdin, who observed him, asked him what reason he had to weep. "Alas! my child," replied the magician, "how can I do otherwise? I am your uncle; for your father was my most excellent brother. I have been several years upon my journey, and at the very instant of my arrival in this place, and when I was congratulating myself in the hopes of seeing him, and giving him joy on my return, you inform me of his death. Can I then be so unfeeling as not to be sensible to the most violent grief, when I thus find myself deprived of all my expected consolation? What, however, in a small degree alleviates my affliction is, that as far as my recollection carries me, I discover many traces of your father in your countenance, and I have not in fact been deceived in having addressed myself to you." He then asked Aladdin, putting at the same time his hand into his purse, where his mother lived; and as soon as he was answered, the African magician gave him a handful of small money, and said to him, "My son, go to your mother, make my respects to her, and tell her that I will come and see her to-morrow, if I have an opportunity; in order to afford myself the consolation of seeing the spot where my good brother lived so many years, and where he at last finished his career."

The African magician had no sooner quitted his new-created nephew, than Aladdin ran to his mother, highly delighted with the money his supposed uncle had given him. "Pray tell me, mother," he cried, the instant of his arrival, "whether I have not an uncle?"—"No, my child," replied

she, "you have no uncle, either on your poor father's side or mine."—"I have, however, just left a man," answered the boy, "who told me he was my father's brother, and my uncle. He even cried and embraced me, when I told him of my father's death. And to prove to you that he spoke the truth," added he, showing her the money which he had received, "see what he has given me. He bid me also be sure and give his kindest remembrances to you, and to say that he would, if he had time, come and see you himself to-morrow, as he was desirous of beholding the house where my father lived and died."—"It is true, indeed, my son," replied Aladdin's mother, "that your father had a brother, but he has been dead a long time, and I never heard him even mention any other." After this conversation, they said no more on the subject.

The next day the African magician again accosted Aladdin, while he was playing in some other part of the city, with three other boys. He embraced him as before, and putting two pieces of gold into his hand, "Take this, my boy," said he, "and carry it to your mother. Tell her, that I intend to come and sup with her this evening, and that this is for her to purchase what is necessary for us to regale ourselves with; but first inform me in what quarter of the city I shall find your house." Aladdin gave him the necessary information, and the magician took his departure.

Aladdin carried the two pieces of gold to his mother, and when he had told her of his supposed uncle's intentions, she went out and procured a large supply of good provisions. And as she was unprovided with a sufficient quantity of china or earthenware, she went and borrowed what she might want of her neighbours. She was busily employed, during the whole day, in preparing for night; and in the evening, when everything was ready, she desired Aladdin, as his uncle might not know where to find the house, to go out into the street, and if he should see him, to show him the way.

Although Aladdin had pointed out to the magician the exact situation of his mother's house, he was nevertheless very ready to go, and at the



very moment that he was at the door, he heard some person knock. Aladdin instantly opened it, and saw the African bringing several bottles of wine in his hand, and several sorts of fruit for them all to regale with.

He had no sooner given to Aladdin all the things that he had brought, than he paid his respects to his mother, and requested her to show him the place where his brother Mustafa was accustomed to sit upon the sofa. She had no sooner pointed it out, than he immediately prostrated himself before it; kissed the place several times, while the tears seemed to run in abundance from his eyes. "My poor brother," he exclaimed, "how unfortunate am I not to have arrived time enough to have received your embraces once more before you died!" The mother of Aladdin begged this pretended brother to sit in the place her husband used to occupy, but he would by no means hear of it. "No!" he cried, "I will take care how I do that: give me leave, however, to seat myself opposite, that if I am deprived of the pleasure of seeing him here in person, sitting like the father of a family that is so dear to me, I may at least look at the spot, as if he were present." Aladdin's mother pressed him no farther, but permitted him to take whatever seat he chose.

When the African magician had placed himself where he liked, he began to enter into a conversation with Aladdin's mother. "Do not be surprised, my good sister," he said, "at never having seen me during the whole of the time you have been married to my late brother, Mustafa, of happy memory. It is full forty years since I left this country, of which I am a native, as well as himself. In the course of this long period, I first travelled through India, Persia, Arabia, Syria, and Egypt; and after passing some considerable time in all the finest and most remarkable cities in those countries, I went into Africa, where I resided for a great length of time. At last, as it is the natural disposition of man, how distant soever he may be from the place of his birth, never to forget his native country, nor lose the recollection of his family, his friends, and the companions of his youth, the desire of seeing mine, and of once more embracing my dear

brother, took so powerful a hold of my mind, that I felt myself sufficiently bold and strong again to undergo the fatigue of so long a journey. I instantly, therefore, set about all the necessary preparations, and began my travels. It is useless to mention the length of time I was thus employed, the various obstacles I had to encounter, and all the fatigue I suffered, before I arrived at the end of my labours. Nothing, however, so much mortified me, or gave me so much pain, in all my travels, as the intelligence of the death of my poor brother, whom I so tenderly loved, and whose memory I must ever regard with a respect truly fraternal. I have traced almost every feature of his countenance in the face of my nephew; and it was this that enabled me to distinguish him from the other young persons with whom he was. He can inform you in what manner I received the melancholy news that my brother no longer lived. We must, however, praise God for all things; and I console myself in finding him again alive in his son, who thus preserves his most remarkable features."

The African magician, who perceived that Aladdin's mother was very much affected at this conversation about her husband, and that the recollection of him renewed her grief, changed the subject; and turning towards Aladdin, he asked him his name. "I am called Aladdin," he answered. "Well then, Aladdin," said the magician, "what do you employ yourself about? Are you acquainted with any trade?"

At this speech Aladdin hung down his head, and was much disconcerted: but his mother, seeing this, answered for him. "Aladdin," she said, "is a very idle boy. His father did all he could, while he was alive, to make him learn his business, but he could not accomplish it; and since his death, in spite of everything I can say, he will learn nothing, but lead the idle life of a vagabond, though I talk to him on the subject every day of my life. He spends all his time at play with other boys, as you saw him, without considering that he is no longer a child; and if you cannot make him ashamed of himself, and profit by your advice, I shall utterly despair that he will ever be good for anything. He knows very well, that:





his father left us nothing at his death to live upon ; and sees, that though I pass the whole day in spinning cotton, yet that I can hardly get bread for us to eat. In short, I am resolved soon absolutely to shut my doors against him, and make him seek a livelihood somewhere else."

Saying this, the good woman burst into tears. "This is not right, Aladdin," said the African magician, "you must, nephew, think of supporting yourself, and working for your bread. There is a variety of trades ; consider if there is not one you have an inclination for, in preference to another. Perhaps that which your father followed displeases you, and you would rather be brought up to some other. Come, come, don't conceal your opinion, give it freely, and I may perhaps assist you." As he found that Aladdin made him no answer, he went on thus : "If you have an objection to learning any trade, and yet wish to be a respectable and honest character, I will procure you a shop, and furnish it with rich stuffs, and fine sorts of linens ; you shall sell the goods, and with the money you make, you shall buy other merchandise ; and in this manner your life will pass very respectably. Consult your own inclinations, and tell me candidly, what you think of the plan. You will always find me ready to perform my promise."

This offer flattered the vanity of Aladdin very much ; and he was the more averse to any manual occupation, because he knew well enough that the shops which contained goods of this sort were much frequented, and the merchants themselves well dressed, and highly esteemed. He hinted, therefore, to the African magician, whom he considered as his uncle, that he was much more inclined to the latter plan, and that he should all his life continue sensible of the obligation he was under to him. "Since, then, this employment is agreeable to you," replied the magician, "I will take you with me to-morrow, and have you properly and handsomely dressed, as becomes one of the richest merchants of this city, and then we will procure a shop in the way I propose."

The mother of Aladdin, who had not hitherto been convinced that the magician was in fact the brother of her husband, no longer doubted

it, when he promised to do so much good for her son. She thanked him sincerely for his kind intentions; and, after having charged Aladdin to conduct himself so as to prove worthy of the good fortune his uncle had led him to expect, she served up the supper. The conversation, during the whole time the supper lasted, turned on the same subject, and continued till the magician, who perceived that the night was far advanced, took leave of Aladdin and his mother, and retired.

The African magician did not fail to return the next morning to the widow of Mustafa, the tailor, as he had promised. He took Aladdin away with him, and conducted him to a merchant's, where ready-made clothes, suited to every description of people, and made of the finest stuffs, were sold. He made Aladdin try on such as seemed to fit him, and, after choosing those he liked best, and rejecting others that he thought improper for him, "My nephew," said the magician, "choose such as you are most pleased with out of this number." Delighted with the liberality of his new uncle, Aladdin made choice of one. The magician bought it, together with everything that was necessary to complete the dress, and paid for the whole, without asking the merchant to make any abatement.

When Aladdin saw himself thus magnificently dressed from head to foot, he returned his uncle a thousand thanks; the magician, on his part, again promised never to forsake him, but to have him always with him. He then conducted Aladdin to the most frequented parts of the city, particularly where the shops of the most opulent merchants were; and, when he was come to the street where the shops of fine stuffs and linens were, he said to Aladdin, "You will soon become a merchant such as one of these. It is proper that you should frequent this place, and become acquainted with them." After this, he took him to the largest and most noted mosques, to the khans, where all the foreign merchants lived, and through every part of the sultan's palace, where he had leave to enter. Having, at length, gone with him over every part of the city most worth seeing, they came to the khan where the magician had hired an apartment. They found several merchants, with whom he had made some slight ac-

quaintance since his arrival, and whom he had now invited to partake of a repast, in order to introduce his pretended nephew to them.

The entertainment was not over till the evening. Aladdin then wished to take leave of his uncle, and go home; the African magician, however, would not suffer him to go alone, but went himself, and conducted him back to his mother's. When she saw her son so handsomely dressed, she was transported with joy. She continued to bestow a thousand blessings on the magician, who had been at so great an expense on her dear child's account. "Generous relation," she exclaimed, "I know not how to thank you enough for your great liberality. My son, I am aware, is not worthy of so much generosity; and he will be wicked indeed if he ever prove ungrateful to you, or does not conduct himself so as to deserve and be an ornament to the excellent situation you are about to place him in. For my part," added she, "I thank you with my whole soul; may you live many happy years, and witness my son's gratitude, who cannot prove his good intentions better than by following your advice."

"Aladdin," replied the magician, "is a good boy. He seems to pay attention to what I say. I have no doubt but we shall make him what we wish. I am sorry for one thing, and that is, that I am not able to perform all my promises to-morrow. It is Friday, and on that day all the shops are shut; and it is impossible either to hire one, or furnish it with goods, because all the merchants are absent, and engaged in their several amusements. We will, however, settle all this business on Saturday; and I will come here to-morrow to take Aladdin, and show him the public gardens, in which people of reputation constantly walk and amuse themselves. He has, probably, hitherto been ignorant of the way in which they pass their time there. He has associated only with boys, but he must now learn to live with men." The magician then took his leave, and departed. In the meantime, Aladdin, who was delighted at seeing himself so well dressed, was still more pleased at the idea of going to the gardens in the environs of the city. He had never been withoutside of

the gates, nor seen the neighbouring country, which was in fact very beautiful and attractive.

The next morning Aladdin got up and dressed himself very early, in order to be ready to set out the moment his uncle called for him. After waiting some time, and which he thought an age, he became so impatient, that he opened the door and stood on the outside to watch for his arrival. The moment he saw him coming, he went and informed his mother of it, took leave of her, shut the door, and ran to meet him.

The magician behaved in the most affectionate manner to Aladdin. "Come, my good boy," said he, with a smile, "I will to-day show you some very fine things." He conducted him out at a gate that led to some large and handsome houses, or, rather, magnificent palaces, to each of which there was a beautiful garden, in which they had the liberty of walking. At each palace they came to, he asked Aladdin if it were not very beautiful; while the latter often prevented this question by exclaiming, when a new one presented itself: "O, uncle, here is one much more beautiful than those we have before seen." In the meantime they kept going on into the country; and the cunning magician, who wanted to go still further, for the purpose of putting a design, which he had in his head, into execution, went into one of these gardens, and sat down by the side of a large basin of pure water, which received its supplies through the jaws of a bronze lion. He then pretended to be very tired, in order to give Aladdin an opportunity of resting. "My dear nephew," he said, "you must be fatigued, as well as myself. Let us rest ourselves here a little while, and get fresh strength to pursue our walk."

When they were seated, the magician took out from a piece of linen cloth, which was attached to his girdle, various sorts of fruits, and some cakes, with which he had provided himself: he then spread them all on the bank before them. He divided a cake between himself and Aladdin, and gave him leave to eat whatever fruit he liked best. While they were eating, he gave his pretended nephew much good advice, desiring him to leave off playing with boys, and to associate with intelligent and prudent

men • to pay every attention to them, and to profit from their conversation. “You will very soon,” said he, “be a man yourself; and you cannot too soon accustom yourself to their manners and behaviour.” When they had finished their slight repast, they got up and pursued their way by the side of gardens, which were separated from each other by a small fosse, that served chiefly to mark the limits of each, and not to prevent the communication between them; the honesty and good understanding of the inhabitants of this city made it unnecessary for them to take any other means of preventing any injury from being done to each other. The African magician insensibly led Aladdin on much further than the gardens extended; and they walked on through the country, till they came into the neighbourhood of the mountains.

Aladdin, who had never in his whole life before taken so long a walk, felt himself very much tired. “Where are we going, my dear uncle?” said he; “we have got much further than the gardens, and I can see nothing but hills and mountains before us. And if we go on any further, I know not whether I shall have strength enough to walk back to the city.”—“Take courage, nephew,” replied his pretended uncle, “I wish to show you another garden, that far surpasses all you have hitherto seen. It is not far from hence; and, after your arrival, you will readily own how sorry you would have been to have come thus near it, and not gone on to see it.” Aladdin was persuaded to proceed, and the magician led him on considerably further, amusing him all the time with entertaining stories, to beguile their way, and make it less fatiguing and unpleasant.

They at length came to a narrow valley, situated between two moderately sized mountains, of nearly the same height. This was the particular spot to which the magician wished to bring Aladdin, in order to put in execution the grand project that was the sole cause of his coming from the extremity of Africa to Cathay. “We shall now,” said he to Aladdin, “go no further; and I shall here unfold to your view some extraordinary things, hitherto unknown to mortals; and which, when you shall have seen, you will thank me a thousand times for having made you an eye-

witness of. There are indeed such wonders as no one besides yourself will ever have seen. I am now going to strike a light; and do you, in the meantime, collect all the dry sticks and leaves that you can find, in order to make a fire."

There were so many pieces of dry sticks scattered about this place, that Aladdin had collected more than was sufficient for his purpose by the time the magician had lighted his match. He then set them on fire; and as soon as they were in a blaze, the African threw a certain perfume, which he had ready in his hand, upon them. A thick and dense smoke immediately arose, which seemed to unfold itself in consequence of some mysterious words pronounced by the magician, and which Aladdin did not in the least comprehend. At the same instant the ground slightly shook, and opening in the spot where they stood, discovered a square stone about a foot and a half across, placed horizontally, with a brass ring fixed in the centre, for the purpose of lifting it up.

Aladdin was dreadfully alarmed at all these things, and was about to run away, when the magician, to whom his presence in this mysterious affair was absolutely necessary, stopped him in an angry manner, and gave him at the same moment a blow, which not only beat him down, but nearly knocked some of his teeth out. Poor Aladdin, with tears in his eyes, and the blood streaming from his mouth, and trembling in every limb, got up. "My dear uncle," he cried, "what have I done to deserve such severity?"—"I have my reasons for it," replied the magician, "I am your uncle, and consider myself as your father, and you ought not to make me any answer. Do not, however, my boy," added he, in a milder tone of voice, "be at all afraid; I desire nothing of you, but that you obey me most implicitly: and this you must do, if you wish to render yourself worthy of, and to profit by, the great advantages I mean to afford you." These fine speeches of the magician in some measure lessened the fright of Aladdin; and when the former saw him less alarmed, "You have observed," he said, "what I have done by virtue of my perfumes, and the words that I have pronounced. You are now to be informed, that under





the stone, which you see here, there is a concealed treasure, destined for you; and which will one day render you richer than any of the most powerful potentates of the earth. It is moreover the fact, that no one in the world but you can be permitted to touch, or lift up this stone, and go beneath it. Even I myself am not able to approach it, and to take possession of the treasure which is under it. And, in order to ensure your success, you must observe and execute in every respect, even to the minutest point, what I am now going to instruct you in. This is a matter of the greatest consequence both to you and to myself."

Wrapped in astonishment at everything he had seen and heard, and full of the idea of this treasure which the magician said was to make him for ever happy, Aladdin forgot everything else that had passed. "Well, my dear uncle," he exclaimed, as he got up, "what must I do? Tell me, I am ready to obey you in everything."—"I heartily rejoice, my boy," replied the magician, embracing Aladdin, "that you have made so good a resolution. Come to me; take hold of this ring, and lift up the stone."—"I am not strong enough, uncle," said Aladdin, "you must help me."—"No, no," answered the African magician, "you have no occasion for my assistance; we shall neither of us do any good, if I attempt to help you; you must lift it up entirely by yourself. Pronounce only the name of your father and your grandfather, take hold of the ring, and lift it: it will come without any difficulty." Aladdin did exactly as the magician told him; he raised the stone without any trouble, and laid it by the side of him.

When the stone was taken away, a small cavern was visible, between three and four feet deep, at the bottom of which there appeared a door, with steps to go down still lower. "You must now, my good boy," said the African magician to Aladdin, "observe very exactly everything I am going to tell you. Go down into this cavern, and when you have come to the bottom of the steps which you see, you will perceive an open door, which leads into a large vaulted space, divided into three successive halls. In each of these you will perceive, on both sides of you, four bronze vases, as large as tubs, full of gold and silver. You must take particular care

not to touch any of it. When you get into the first hall, take up your robe and bind it round you. Then observe, and go on to the second without stopping, and from thence in the same manner to the third. Above all, however, be very particular not to go near the walls, nor even to touch them with your robe; for if any part of your dress comes in contact with them your instant death will be the inevitable consequence. This is the reason of my having desired you to fasten your robe firmly round you. At the extremity of the third hall there is a door which leads to a garden, planted with beautiful trees, all of which are full of fruit. Go on straight forward, and pursue a path which you will perceive, and which will bring you to the bottom of a flight of fifty steps, at the top of which is a terrace. When you shall have ascended the terrace, you will observe a niche before you, in which there is a lighted lamp. Take the lamp, and extinguish it. Then throw out the wick, and the liquid that is within, and put it in your bosom. When you have done this, bring it to me. Do not be afraid of staining your dress, as what is within the lamp is not oil; and, when you have thrown it out, the lamp will dry directly. If you should feel yourself very desirous of gathering any of the fruit in the garden, you may do so; and there is nothing to prevent your taking as much as you please."

When the magician had given these directions to Aladdin, he took off a ring, which he had on one of his fingers, and gave it to his pretended nephew; telling him, at the same time, that it was a preservative against every evil that might otherwise happen to him, and again bid him be mindful of everything he had said to him. "Go, my child," added he, "descend boldly; we shall now both of us become immensely rich for the rest of our lives."

Aladdin gave a spring, jumped into the opening with a willing mind, and went down to the bottom of the steps. He found the three halls, exactly answering the description the magician had given of them. He passed through them with the greatest precaution possible; as he was fearful he might be killed, if he did not most strictly observe all the directions he had received. He went on to the garden, and ascended to the





terrace without stopping. He took the lamp, as it stood lighted in the niche, threw out its contents; and, observing that it was, as the magician had said, quite dry, he put it into his bosom. He then came down the terrace, and stopped in the garden to examine the fruit, which he had only seen for an instant as he passed along. The trees of this garden were all full of the most extraordinary fruit. Each tree bore a sort of a different colour. Some were white, others sparkling and transparent, like crystal; some were red, and of different shades, others green, blue, violet; some of a yellowish hue; in short, of almost every colour. The white were pearls; the sparkling and transparent were diamonds; the deep red were rubies, the paler a particular sort of ruby, called balass; the green, emeralds; the blue, turquoises; the violet, amethysts; those tinged with yellow, sapphires; in the same way, all the other coloured fruits were varieties of precious stones; and the whole of them were of the largest size, and more perfect than were ever seen in the world. Aladdin, who knew neither their beauty, nor their value, was not at all struck with the appearance of them, which did not the least suit his taste, like the figs, grapes, and other excellent fruits common in Cathay. As he was not yet of an age to be acquainted with their value, he thought they were all only pieces of coloured glass, and did not therefore attach any other value to them. The variety, however, and contrast of so many beautiful colours, as well as the brilliancy and extraordinary size of each sort, nevertheless tempted him to gather some of each. And he took so many of every colour, that he filled both his pockets, as well as his two new purses, that the magician had bought for him, at the time he made him a present of his new dress, that everything he wore might be equally new; and as his pockets, which were already full, could not hold his two purses, he fastened them on each side of his girdle, or sash, and also wrapped some in its folds, as it was of silk, and made very full. In this manner, he carried them so as they could not fall out. He did not even neglect to fill his bosom quite full, between his robe and shirt.

Laden in this manner, with the most immense treasure, though igno-

rant of its value, Aladdin made haste through the three halls in order that he might not make the African magician wait too long. Having proceeded through them with the same caution as before, he began to ascend the steps he had come down, and presented himself at the entrance of the cave, where the magician was impatiently waiting for him. As soon as Aladdin had perceived him, he called out, "Give me your hand, uncle, to help me up."—"You had better, my dear boy," replied the magician, "first give me the lamp, as that will only embarrass you."—"It is not at all in my way," said Aladdin, "and I will give it to you when I am out." The magician still persevered in wishing to get the lamp before he helped Aladdin out of the cave: but the latter had in fact so covered it with the fruit of the trees, that he absolutely refused to give it till he had got out of the cave. The African magician was then in the greatest despair at the obstinate resistance the boy made; he put himself into the most violent rage; he threw a little perfume upon the fire, which he had taken care to keep up, and he had hardly pronounced two magic words, before the stone which served to shut up the entrance to the cavern returned of its own accord to the place, with all the earth over it, exactly in the same state it was when the magician and Aladdin first arrived there.

There is no doubt but that this African magician was not the brother of Mustafa, the tailor, as he had formerly boasted, and consequently not the uncle of Aladdin. He was most probably originally of Africa, being born there; as that is a country where magic is more studied than in any other; he had given himself up to it from his earliest youth: and, after nearly forty years spent in enchantments, experiments in geomancy, fumigations, and reading books of magic, he had at length discovered, that there was in the universe a certain wonderful lamp, the possession of which would make him the most powerful monarch of the universe, if he were so fortunate as to obtain it. By a late experiment in geomancy he had discovered, that this lamp was in a subterraneous place in the middle of Cathay, in the very spot, and under the very circumstances, that have just been detailed. Thoroughly persuaded of the truth of this discovery,



he had come from the furthest part of Africa ; and after a long and painful journey, had arrived in the city that was nearest this treasure. But though the lamp was certainly in the place which he had found out, yet he was nevertheless not permitted to take it away himself, nor to go in person to the very spot where it was. It was absolutely necessary that another person should go down to take it, and then put it into his hands. It was therefore for this reason, that he had addressed himself to Aladdin, who seemed to him to be an artless youth, and well adapted to perform the service he expected from him ; and he had resolved, as soon as he had got the lamp from him, to raise the last fumigation, pronounce the two magic words, which produced the effect already seen, and sacrifice poor Aladdin to his avarice and wickedness, that he might not have existing witnesses of his being in possession of the lamp. The blow he had given Aladdin, as well as the authority he exercised over him, were only for the purpose of accustoming him to fear him, and obey all his orders without hesitation ; that when Aladdin had got possession of the wonderful lamp, he might instantly deliver it to him. The reverse, however, of what he both wished and expected, came to pass ; for he was so much in a hurry to put an end to poor Aladdin, only because he was afraid that while he was contesting the matter with him, some person might come, and make that public which he wished to be quite secret, that he completely failed in his object.

When the magician found all his hopes and expectations for ever blasted, he had only one method to pursue, and that was to return to Africa, which he in fact did the very same day. He pursued his journey along the most private roads, in order to avoid the city where he had met with Aladdin. He was also afraid to meet any person who might have seen him walk out with him, and come back without him.

To judge from all these circumstances, it might naturally be supposed that Aladdin was gone for ever ; and, indeed, the magician himself, who thought he had thus destroyed him, had not paid any attention to the ring which he had placed on his finger, and which was now about to render

Aladdin the most essential service, and to save him. Aladdin knew not the wonderful qualities either of that or the lamp; and it is indeed astonishing that the loss of both of them did not drive the magician to absolute despair: but persons of his profession are so accustomed to defeat, and have so many events happen quite contrary to their wishes, that they never cease from endeavouring to conquer every misfortune, by charms, visions, and enchantments.

Aladdin, who did not expect this wicked action from his pretended uncle, after all the kindness and generosity with which the latter had behaved to him, experienced a degree of surprise and astonishment which is much easier to conceive than explain. When he found himself, as it were, buried alive, he called aloud a thousand times to his uncle, telling him he was ready to give him the lamp. But all his cries were useless; and having no other means to make himself heard, he remained in perfect darkness. Giving, at length, a little cessation to his tears, he went down to the bottom of the flight of stairs, intending to look for the light in the garden where he had before been. But the walls, which had been opened by enchantment, were now shut by the same means. He felt all around him, to the right and left, several times, but could not discover the least opening. He then redoubled his cries and tears, sat down upon the step of his dungeon, without the least ray of hope ever again to see the light of day, and with the melancholy conviction, that he should only pass from the darkness which now encompassed him, to the shades of an inevitable and speedy death.

Aladdin remained two days in this state, without either eating or drinking. On the third day, regarding his death as certain, he lifted up his hands, and, joining them as in the act of prayer, he wholly resigned himself to the will of God, and uttered in a loud tone of voice; "There is no strength or power but in the high and great God." In this action of joining his hands, he happened, without at all thinking of it, to rub the ring which the African magician had put upon his finger, and of the virtue of which he was as yet ignorant. Upon its being thus rubbed, a





Genie of a most enormous figure and most horrid countenance, instantly rose, as it were, out of the earth before him; he was so tall, that his head touched the vaulted roof, and he addressed these words to Aladdin: "What do you wish? I am ready to obey you as your slave; as the slave of him who has the ring on his finger; I and the other slaves of the ring."

At any other moment, and on any other occasion, Aladdin, who was totally unaccustomed to such appearances, would have been so frightened at the sight of such a wonderful figure, he would have been unable to speak; but he was so entirely pre-occupied with the danger and peril of his situation, that he answered without the least hesitation, "Whoever you are, take me, if you are able, out of this place." He had scarcely pronounced these words, when the earth opened, and he found himself on the outside of the cave, and at the very spot to which the magician had brought him. It is easy to be conceived, that after having remained in complete darkness for so long a time, Aladdin had at first some difficulty in supporting the brightness of open day. By degrees, however, his eyes were accustomed to the light, and, in looking round him, he was surprised to find not the least opening in the earth. He could not comprehend in what manner he had so suddenly come out of it. There was only the place where the fire had been made, which he recollected was close to the entrance into the cave. Looking round towards the city, he perceived it surrounded by the gardens, and thus knew the road he had come with the magician. He returned the same way, thanking God for having again suffered him to behold and revisit the face of the earth, which he had quite despaired of doing.

He arrived at the city, but it was with great difficulty that he got home. When he was within the door, the joy he experienced at again seeing his mother, added to the weak state he was in, from not having eaten anything for the space of three days, made him faint, and it was some time before he came to himself. His mother, who had already wept for him as lost or dead, seeing him in this state, did not omit any thing

that could tend to restore him to life. At length he recovered, and the first thing he said to his mother was, "Bring me something, my dear mother, to eat, before you do anything else. I have tasted nothing these three days." His mother instantly set what she had before him. "My dear child," said she, at the same moment, "do not hurry yourself, it is dangerous; eat also but little, and at your leisure: you must take great care how you manage, in the pressing appetite you have. Do not even speak to me; you will have plenty of time to relate to me everything that has happened to you, when you shall have regained your strength. I am sufficiently satisfied at seeing you once more, after all the affliction I have suffered since Friday, and all the trouble I have also taken to learn what was become of you, when I found the night approach and you did not return home."

Aladdin followed his mother's advice; he ate slowly and not a great deal, and drank sparingly. "I have great reason, my dear mother," said he, when he had done, "to complain of you for putting me in the power of a man whose object was to destroy me, and who at this very moment supposes my death so sure, he cannot doubt either that I am no longer alive, or at least that I shall not remain so another day. But you took him to be my uncle, and I was also equally deceived. Indeed, how could we suppose him to be anything else, as he almost overwhelmed me with his kindness and generosity, and made me so many promises of future advantage? But I must tell you, mother, that he was a traitor, a wicked man, a cheat. He was good and kind to me only that he might, after answering his own purpose, destroy me, as I have already told you, without either of us being able to know the reason. For my part, I can assure you I have not given him the least cause for the bad treatment I have received; and you will yourself be convinced of it by the faithful and true account I am going to give you of everything that has passed; from the first moment that I left you, till he put his wicked design in execution."

Aladdin then related to his mother everything that had happened to him and the magician, on the day when the latter came and took him

away to see the palaces and gardens round the city ; what had befallen him on the road and at the place between the two mountains, where the magician worked such prodigies : how, upon throwing the perfume into the fire and uttering some magical words, the earth instantly opened, and discovered the entrance to a cave, that led to most inestimable treasures. Neither did he forget the blow that the magician had given him, and the manner, after having first coaxed him, he had persuaded him, by the means of the greatest promises, and by putting a ring on his finger, to descend into the cave. He omitted no circumstance of what passed, or what he had seen in going backwards or forwards through the three halls, in the garden, or on the terrace, whence he had taken the wonderful lamp, which he took out of his bosom and showed to his mother, as well as the transparent and different coloured fruits that he had gathered as he returned through the garden, and the two purses quite full, all of which he gave his mother ; who, however, did not set much value upon them. The fruits, however, were in fact precious stones ; and the lustre which they threw round by means of a lamp that hung in the chamber, and which almost equalled the sun in brightness, ought to have informed her they were of the greatest value ; but the mother of Aladdin had no greater knowledge of their value than her son. She had been brought up in a middle station in life, and her husband had never been rich enough to bestow any jewels upon her. Besides, she had never even seen any among her relations or neighbours, it was not therefore at all surprising, that she considered them as things of no value, and only fit to please the eye by the variety of their colours. Aladdin, therefore, put them all behind one of the cushions of the sofa on which they were sitting.

He finished the recital of his adventure by telling her that, when he came back and presented himself at the mouth of the cave to get out, upon refusing to give the lamp to the magician, the entrance to the cave was instantly closed, by means of the perfume thrown by the magician on the fire, which he had kept alight, and of some words that he pronounced. He could not then proceed any further without shedding tears, and repre-

sending the miserable state he found himself in, buried, as it were, alive in this fatal cave, till the moment he got out and was again brought forth into the world, by means of the ring of which he did not even now know the virtues. When he had finished his account, he said to his mother, "I need not tell you more: the rest is known to you. This is the whole of my adventures, and of the danger I have been in since I left you."

Wonderful and surprising as this relation was, distressing too as it must have been for a mother, who in spite of his defects tenderly loved her son; she had the patience to hear it to the end without giving him the least interruption. In the most affecting parts, however, particularly those that unfolded the wicked intentions of the African magician, she could not help showing by her actions how much she detested him, and how much he excited her indignation. But Aladdin had no sooner concluded, than she began to abuse this impostor in the strongest terms. She called him a traitor, a barbarian, a cheat, an assassin, a magician, the enemy and destroyer of the human race. "Yes, my child," she exclaimed, "he is a magician, and magicians are public evils. They hold communication with demons by means of their sorceries and enchantments. Blessed be God that he has not suffered the wickedness of this wretch to have its full effect upon you. You too ought to return Him many thanks for his kindness to you. Your death would have been inevitable if God had not come to your assistance, and you had not implored his aid." She added many more things of the same sort; showing at the same time her complete detestation of the treachery with which the magician had treated her son; but as she was proceeding in this manner, she perceived that Aladdin, who had not slept for three days, wanted rest. She made him therefore retire to bed, and soon afterwards went thither herself.

As Aladdin had not been able to take any repose in the subterranean vault in which he had been, as it were, buried with the idea of his certain destruction, it is no wonder that he passed the whole of that night in the most profound sleep, and that it was even late the next morning before he awoke. He at last got up, and the first thing he said to his mother was,

that he was very hungry, and that she could not oblige him more than by giving him something for breakfast. "Alas! my child," replied his mother, "I have not a morsel of bread to give you. You ate last night all the trifling remains of food there was in the house. Have, however, a little patience, and it shall not be long before I will bring you some. I have a little cotton of my own spinning, which I will go and sell, and purchase something for our dinner."—"Keep your cotton, mother," said Aladdin, "for another time, and give me the lamp which I brought with me yesterday. I will go and sell that, and the money it will fetch will serve us for breakfast and dinner too, nay, perhaps also for supper."

Aladdin's mother took the lamp from the place she had put it in. "Here it is," she said to her son, "but it is I think very dirty. If I were to clean it a little, perhaps it might sell for something more." She then took some water and a little fine sand to clean it with. But she had scarcely begun to rub this lamp, when instantly, and while her son was present, a hideous and gigantic Genie rose out of the ground before her, and cried with a voice as loud as thunder: "What do you wish? I am ready to obey you as your slave, and the slave of those who have the lamp in their hands; I and the other slaves of the lamp." The mother of Aladdin was not in a condition to answer this address. She was unable to endure the sight of a figure so hideous and alarming as that of the Genie; and her fears were so great, that he had no sooner begun to speak, than she fell down in a fainting-fit.

As Aladdin had once before seen a similar appearance in the cavern, and did not either lose his presence of mind or his judgment, he instantly seized the lamp, and supplied his mother's place by answering for her in a firm tone of voice, "I am hungry, bring me something to eat." The Genie disappeared, and returned the moment after, with a large silver basin, which he carried on his head, and twelve covered dishes of the same material, filled with the nicest meat, properly arranged, and six loaves, as white as snow, upon as many plates; two bottles of the most excellent

wine, and two silver cups in his hand. He placed them all upon the sofa, and instantly vanished.

All this passed in so short a time, that Aladdin's mother had not recovered from fainting, before the Genie had disappeared the second time. Aladdin, who had before thrown some water over her without any effect, again endeavoured to bring her to herself; but at the very instant he was going to set about it, whether her scattered spirits returned of themselves, or that the smell of the dishes which the Genie had brought produced the effect, she quite recovered. "My dear mother," cried Aladdin, "there is nothing the matter. Get up, and come and eat; here is what will put you in good spirits again, and at the same time satisfy my violent appetite. Come, do not let us suffer these good things to get cold before we begin."

His mother was extremely astonished when she beheld the large basin, the twelve dishes, the six loaves, the two bottles of wine and two cups, and perceived the delicious odour that exhaled from them. "My child," she said, "How came all this abundance here, and to whom are we obliged for such liberality? The sultan surely cannot have got acquainted with our poverty and have had compassion upon us?"—"My good mother," replied Aladdin, "come and sit down, and begin to eat; you are as much in want of something as I am. I will tell you of everything when we have broken our fast." They then sat down, and both of them ate with the greater appetite, as neither mother nor son had before ever seen a table so well covered.

During the repast, the mother of Aladdin could not help stopping frequently to look at and admire the basin and dishes; although she was not quite sure whether they were silver or any other material, so little was she accustomed to things of this sort; and in fact without regarding their value, of which she was ignorant, it was only the novelty of their appearance that attracted her admiration. Nor indeed was her son better informed than herself. Although they both merely intended to make a simple breakfast, yet they sat so long, that the hour of dining came before they had risen; the dishes were so excellent, they almost increased their



appetites; and as they were still hot, they thought it no bad plan to join the two meals together, and therefore they dined before they got up from breakfast. When they had made an end of their double repast, they found enough remaining, not only for supper, but even for two as good meals next day, as they had just made.

When Aladdin's mother had taken away the things, and put aside what they had not consumed, she came and seated herself on the sofa near her son. "I now am waiting, my boy," she said, "for you to satisfy my impatient curiosity, and hear the account you have promised me." Aladdin then related to her everything that had passed between him and the Genie, from the time her alarm had made her faint, till she again came to herself. At this discourse of her son, and the account of the appearance of the Genie, his mother was in the greatest astonishment. "But what do you tell me, child, about your Genie? Never since I was born, have I heard of any person of my acquaintance that has seen one. How comes it, then, that this villanous Genie should have presented himself to me? Why did he not rather address himself to you, to whom he had before appeared in the subterraneous cavern?"

"Mother," replied Aladdin, "the Genie who appeared just now to you, is not the same that appeared to me. In some things, indeed, they resemble each other, being both as large as giants, but they are very different both in their countenance and dress, and they belong to different masters. If you recollect, he whom I saw called himself the slave of the ring, which I had on my finger; and the one who appeared to you, was the slave of the lamp you had in your hand: but I believe you did not hear him, as you seemed to faint the instant he began to speak."—"What," cried his mother, "is it then your lamp that was the reason why this cursed Genie addressed himself to me, rather than to you? Ah! child, take the lamp out of my sight, and put it where you please, so that I never touch it again. Indeed I would rather that you should throw it away or sell it, than run the risk of almost dying with fright by again touching it. And if you would also follow my advice, you would put away the ring as well.

We ought to have no commerce with Genii; they are demons, and our Prophet has told us so."

"With your permission, however, my dear mother," replied Aladdin, "I shall take care how I sell this lamp in a hurry, which has already been so useful to us both. I have indeed been once very near it. Do you not see what it has procured us, and that it will also continue to furnish us with enough for our entire support? You may easily judge as well as myself, that it was not for nothing that my pretended wicked uncle gave himself so much trouble, and undertook so long and fatiguing a journey, since it was merely to get possession of this wonderful lamp, which he preferred to all the gold and silver which he knew was in the three halls, and which I myself saw, as he had before said I should. He was too well acquainted with the worth and qualities of this lamp to wish for any other part of that immense treasure. Since chance then has discovered its virtues to us, let us profit by them; but in such a manner that we shall not make any bustle, and by such means draw down the envy and jealousy of our neighbours. I will take it indeed out of your sight, and put it where I shall be able to find it whenever I shall have occasion for it, since you are so much alarmed at the appearance of Genii. Neither can I resolve to throw the ring away. Without this ring you would have never seen me again; and even if I should now have been alive, it would have been almost the last moment of my existence. You must permit me then to keep and to wear it always very carefully on my finger. Who can tell if some danger may not one day or other again happen to me, which neither you nor I can now foresee, and from which it may deliver me?" As the arguments of Aladdin appeared very just and reasonable, his mother had nothing to say in reply. "Do as you like, my son," she cried, "as for me, I wish to have nothing at all to do with Genii; and I declare to you, that I entirely wash my hands of them, and will never mention them to you again."

After supper the next evening, nothing remained of the good provisions which the Genie had brought. The following morning, Aladdin, who

did not like to wait till hunger compelled him, took one of the silver plates under his robe, and went out early in order to sell it. He addressed himself to a Jew, whom he happened to meet. Aladdin took him aside, and showing him the plate, asked him if he would buy it.

The Jew, who was both clever and cunning, took the plate and examined it. He had no sooner ascertained that it was good silver, than he desired to know how much he expected for it. Aladdin, who knew not its value, nor had ever had any dealings of the sort before, was satisfied with saying, that he supposed the Jew knew what the plate was worth, and that he would depend upon his honour. Being uncertain whether Aladdin was acquainted with its real value or not, he took out of his purse a piece of gold, which was exactly worth one seventy-second part as much as the plate, and offered it to Aladdin. The latter eagerly took the money, and as soon as he had got it, went away so quickly that the Jew, not satisfied with the exorbitant profit he had made by this bargain, was very sorry he had not foreseen Aladdin's ignorance of the value of the plate which he had brought to sell, and in consequence, offered him much less for it. He was upon the point of running after the young man, to get something back out of the piece of gold he had given him. But Aladdin himself ran very fast, and was already got so far, that he would have found it impossible to overtake him.

In his way home, Aladdin stopped at a baker's shop, where he bought enough bread for his mother and himself, which he paid for out of his piece of gold, and received the change. When he got back, he gave what remained to his mother, who went to the market and purchased as much provision as would last them for several days.

They thus continued to live in an economical manner; that is, till Aladdin had sold all the twelve dishes one after the other, to the same Jew, exactly as he had done the first, when they found they wanted more money. The Jew, who had given him a piece of gold for the first, durst not offer him less for the other dishes, for fear of losing so good a bargain. He bought them all therefore at the same rate. When the money

for the last plate was expended, Aladdin had recourse to the basin, which was at least ten times as heavy as any of the others. He wished to carry this to his usual merchant, but its great weight prevented him; he was obliged, therefore, to go and look for the Jew, and bring him to his mother's. After having examined the weight of the basin, the Jew counted out ten pieces of gold, with which Aladdin was satisfied.

While these ten pieces lasted, they were employed in the daily expense of the house. In the mean time Aladdin, thus accustomed to lead a sort of idle life, abstained from going to play with other boys of his own age, from the time of his adventure with the African magician. He now passed his days in walking about, or conversing with such men as he got acquainted with. Sometimes he stopped in the shops, belonging to large and extensive merchants, where he listened to the conversation of such people of distinction and education as came there, and who made these shops a sort of meeting-place. The information he thus acquired, gave him a slight knowledge of the world.

When nothing remained of his ten pieces of gold, Aladdin had recourse to the lamp. He took it up, and looked for the particular spot that his mother had rubbed. As he easily perceived the place where the sand had touched it, he applied his hand to the same place, and the same Genie whom he had before seen, instantly appeared. But, as Aladdin had rubbed the lamp in a more gentle manner than his mother had done, the Genie spoke to him also in a more softened tone. "What do you wish?" said he to him; in the same words as before; "I am ready to obey you, as your slave, and the slave of those who have the lamp in their hands; I, and the other slaves of the lamp."—"I am hungry," cried Aladdin, "bring me something to eat." The Genie disappeared, and in a short time returned, loaded with a similar service to that he had brought before, which he placed upon the sofa, and vanished in an instant.

As Aladdin's mother was well aware of the intention of her son, she had gone out on some business, that she might not even be in the house when the Genie again made his appearance. She soon after came in and





saw the table and sideboard well set out; nor was she less surprised at the effect of the lamp this time, than she had been the first. Aladdin and his mother immediately placed themselves at the table; and after they had finished their repast, there still remained sufficient food to last them two whole days.

When Aladdin again found that all his provisions were gone, and that he had no money to purchase any, he took one of the silver dishes, and went to look for the Jew, whom he was before acquainted with, in order to sell it to him. As he walked along, he happened to pass a goldsmith's shop, belonging to a respectable old man, whose probity and general honesty were unimpeachable. The goldsmith, who perceived him, called to him to come into the shop. "My son," said he, "I have often seen you pass, loaded as you are at present, and join such a Jew; and then in a short time, come back again empty-handed. I have thought that you went and sold him what you carried. But perhaps you are ignorant, that this Jew is a very great cheat; nay, that he will even deceive his own brethren, and that no one who knows him will have any dealings with him. Now what I have more to say to you, is only this: and I wish you to act exactly as you like in the matter; if you will show me what you are now carrying, and are going to sell it, I will faithfully give you what it is worth, if it be anything in my way of business, if not, I will introduce you to other merchants, who will not deceive you."

The hope of making a little more of his silver dish, induced Aladdin to take it out from under his robe, and show it to the goldsmith. The old man, who knew at first sight that the dish was of the finest silver, asked him if he had sold any like this to the Jew, and how much he had received for them. Aladdin ingenuously told him that he had sold twelve, and that the Jew had given him a piece of gold for each. "Ah! the thief," cried the merchant; "but, my son, what is done cannot be undone, and let us therefore think of it no more; but in letting you see what your dish, which is made of the finest silver we ever use in our shops, is really worth, we shall know to what extent the Jew has cheated you."

The goldsmith took his scales, weighed the dish, and after explaining to Aladdin how much a mark of silver was, what it was worth, and the different divisions of it, he made him observe, that according to the weight of the dish, it was worth seventy-two pieces of gold, which he immediately counted out to him. "This," said he, "is the exact value of your dish; if you doubt it, you may go to any one of our goldsmiths you please; and if you find that he will give you any more for it, I promise to forfeit to you double the sum. All we get is by the fashion or workmanship of the goods we buy in this manner; and this is what even the most equitable Jews do not." Aladdin thanked the goldsmith for the good advice he had given him, from which too he derived so much advantage. And for the future, he carried his dishes to no one else. He took the basin, also, to his shop, and always received the value, according to its weight.

Although Aladdin and his mother had an inexhaustible source for money in their lamp, by which they could procure what they wished, and whenever they wanted anything; they nevertheless continued always to live with the same frugality as before, except that Aladdin put a little apart for some innocent amusements, and to procure some things that were necessary in the house. His mother took the care of her dress upon herself, and supplied it from the cotton she spun. From such a quiet mode of living, it is easy to conjecture how long the money, arising from the sale of the twelve dishes and the basin, at the rate Aladdin had sold them at, must have lasted them. They lived in this manner for some years, with the profitable assistance which Aladdin occasionally procured from the lamp.

During this interval, Aladdin did not fail to resort frequently to those places where persons of distinction were to be met with; such as the shops of the most considerable merchants in gold and silver stuffs, in silks, fine linens, and jewellery; and by sometimes taking a part in their conversations, he insensibly acquired the style and manners of the best company. It was at the jewellers' more particularly, that he became undeceived in the idea he had formed, that the transparent fruits he had gathered in

the garden which contained the lamp, were only coloured glass, and that he learnt their value to be that of jewels of inestimable price. By means of observing all kinds of precious stones that were bought and sold in these shops, he acquired a knowledge of their value: and as he did not see any that could be compared with those he possessed, either in brilliancy or in size, he concluded, that instead of bits of common glass, which he had considered as trifles of no worth, he was in fact possessed of a most invaluable treasure. He had, however, the prudence not to mention it to any one, not even to his mother; and there is no doubt, that it was in consequence of his silence, that he afterwards rose to the great good fortune, to which we shall in the end see him elevated.

One day, as he was walking in the city, Aladdin heard a proclamation of the sultan, ordering all persons to shut up their shops, and retire into their houses, until the princess Badroul Boudour, the daughter of the sultan, had passed by in her way to the bath, and again returned.

This public order created in Aladdin a curiosity to see the princess unveiled; which however he could not accomplish, but by going to some house where he was acquainted, and by looking through the lattices. Yet this by no means satisfied him, because the princess usually wore a veil as she went to the bath. He thought at last of a plan, which by its success completely gratified his curiosity. He went and placed himself behind the door of the bath, which was so constructed, that he could not fail to see her face.

Aladdin did not wait long in his place of concealment, before the princess made her appearance; and he saw her through a crevice perfectly well without being at all seen. She was accompanied by a great crowd of females and eunuchs, who walked on each side of her, and others who followed her. When she had come within three or four paces of the door of the bath, she lifted up the veil, which not only concealed her face but encumbered her, and thus gave Aladdin an opportunity of seeing her quite at his ease, as she approached the door.

Till this moment, Aladdin had never seen any other female without

her veil, except his mother, who was rather old; and he was therefore incapable of forming any comparison on the beauty of women. He had indeed heard that there were some females who were possessed of surprising beauty; but the expressions people use in commenting upon beauty never make the same impression which the examples themselves afford.

Aladdin had no sooner beheld the princess Badroul Boudour, than he forgot that he had ever supposed all women similar to his mother. His opinions were now very different, and his heart could not help surrendering itself to the object whose appearance had so charmed him. The princess was, in fact, the most beautiful brunette that ever was seen. Her eyes were large, well placed, and full of fire; yet the expression of her countenance was sweet and modest; her nose was properly proportioned and pretty; her mouth small, her lips like vermilion, and beautifully formed; in short, every feature of her face was perfectly lovely and regular. It is therefore by no means wonderful, that Aladdin was dazzled, and almost out of his senses, at beholding such a combination of charms, to which he had been hitherto a stranger. Besides all these perfections, the figure of the princess was elegant, and her air majestic; and merely the sight of her could attract the respect that was due to her rank.

Even after she had entered the bath, Aladdin stood for some time like a man distracted; retracing and impressing more strongly on his own mind the image of a person by whom he had been so charmed; and whose beauty had penetrated the inmost recesses of his heart. He at last came to himself, and recollecting that the princess had gone by, and that it would be perfectly useless for him to keep his station, in order to see her come out, as her back would then be towards him, and she would also be veiled, he determined to quit his post and retire.

After he had got home, Aladdin was unable to conceal his disquietude and distress from his mother. She was much surprised to see him appear so melancholy, and with such an unusually confused manner; and asked him if anything had happened to him, or if he were not well. He gave her, however, no answer whatever, and continued sitting on the sofa in a



negligent manner for a great length of time, entirely taken up with retracing in his imagination the lovely image of the princess Badroul Boudour. His mother, who was employed in preparing supper, did not continue to trouble him. As soon as it was ready, she served it up close to him on the sofa, and set down to table. But as she perceived that Aladdin was too much absorbed to attend to it, she invited him to partake of the cheer; but it was with great difficulty she could get him even to change his situation. He at length ate, but in a much more sparing manner than usual; casting down his eyes all the time, and keeping such a profound silence, that his mother could not obtain a single word in answer to all the questions she put to him, in order to learn the cause of so extraordinary a change.

After supper, she again wished to renew the subject, and inquire the cause of his great melancholy; but she could get no intelligible information from him; and he determined to go to bed rather than afford his mother the least satisfaction.

It is not necessary to inquire how Aladdin passed the night, struck as he was with the beauty and charms of the princess Badroul Boudour; but the next morning, as he was sitting upon the sofa opposite his mother, who was spinning her cotton as usual, he addressed her as follows. "I am going, mother, to break the long silence I have kept, since my return from the city yesterday morning. I am very certain, nay, indeed I have perceived, that it has pained you. I was not ill, as you seemed to think, nor is anything the matter with me now; yet I can assure you, that what I at this moment feel, and what I shall ever continue to feel, is much worse than any disease. I am myself ignorant of the nature of my feelings; but doubtless, when I have explained myself, you will understand them.

"It was not known in this quarter of the city," continued Aladdin, "and therefore you of course are ignorant of it, that the princess Badroul Boudour, the daughter of our sultan, went after dinner yesterday, to the bath: I learnt this intelligence during my walk in the city. An order was

consequently published, that all the shops should be shut up, and every one keep at home, that the honour and respect which is due to her might be paid to the princess; and that the streets through which she had to pass might be quite clear. As I was not far from the bath at the time, the desire I felt to see the princess unveiled made me take it into my head to place myself behind the door of the bath, supposing, as indeed it happened, that she might take off her veil just before she went into it. You recollect the situation of this door, and can therefore very well judge with what ease I could obtain a full sight of her, if what I conjectured should actually take place. She did in fact take off her veil in going in; and I had the happiness and supreme satisfaction of seeing this beautiful princess. This, my dear mother, is the true cause of the state you saw me in yesterday, and the reason of the silence I have hitherto kept. I feel such a violent passion for this princess, that I know not terms strong enough to express it; and as my ardent desire increases every instant, I am convinced it can only be satisfied by the possession of the amiable princess Badroul Boudour, whom I have resolved to ask in marriage of the sultan."

Aladdin's mother listened with the greatest attention to the whole account of her son, till he came to the last sentence; but when she heard that it was his intention to demand the princess Badroul Boudour in marriage, she could not help interrupting him with a most violent fit of laughter. Aladdin wished to resume his speech, but she prevented him. "Alas! my son," she cried, "what are you thinking of? You must surely have lost your senses, to talk thus." "Mother," replied Aladdin, "I assure you I have not lost my senses; I am perfectly in my right mind. I foresaw that you would reproach me with folly and extravagance, even more than you have already done; but whatever you may say, nothing will prevent me from again declaring to you, that my resolution to demand the princess Badroul Boudour of the sultan, her father, in marriage, is absolutely fixed."

"Truly, my son," replied his mother very seriously, "I cannot help

telling you, that you seem entirely to have forgotten who you are ; and even if you are determined to put this resolution in practice, I do not know who will have the audacity to make this request to the sultan.”--“You yourself must,” answered he instantly, without the least hesitation. “I!” cried his mother, in a tone of the greatest surprise: “I go to the sultan! Not I, indeed ; I will take care how I engage in such an enterprise. And pray, son, who do you suppose you are,” she continued, “to have the impudence to aspire to the daughter of the sultan? Have you forgotten that you are the son of one of the poorest tailors in his capital, and that your mother’s family cannot boast of anything better? Are you ignorant that sultans do not deign to bestow their daughters even upon the sons of other sultans, unless they have some chance of coming to the throne?”

“My dear mother,” replied Aladdin, “I have already told you, that I perfectly foresaw everything you have said, and am aware of all that you can add more ; but neither your reasons nor your remonstrances will in the least change my sentiments. I have told you that I would demand the princess Badroul Boudour in marriage, and that you must make the request. It is a favour which I require of you, and ask with all the respect I owe to you ; and I entreat you not to refuse me, unless you would rather see me die than, by granting it, give me life as it were a second time.”

Aladdin’s mother was very much embarrassed when she saw with what obstinacy her son persisted in his mad design. “My dear son,” she said, “I am your mother, and like a good mother, who has brought you into the world, I am ready to do anything that is reasonable and proper for your situation in life and my own, and to undertake anything for your sake. If this business were merely to ask the daughter of one of our neighbours, in a condition of life similar to yours, I would omit nothing, but willingly employ all my abilities in the cause. And to hope for success, even in such a case, you ought to possess some little fortune, or at least be master of some business. When poor people like us wish to marry, the first thing we ought to think about is how to live. While you,

not to mention the lowness of your birth, and the little merit or fortune you have, at once aspire to the highest degree of fortune, and pretend to nothing less than to ask in marriage the daughter of your sovereign, who need only open his lips, to blast all your designs and destroy you at once."

"I will omit," continued Aladdin's mother, "what will be the consequence of this business, to you, who ought to reflect upon that, if you have any reason left; and I will only consider what regards me. How such an extraordinary design as that of wishing me to go and propose to the sultan that he would bestow the princess his daughter upon you; came into your head, I cannot think. Now suppose that I have, I will not say the courage, but the impudence to go and present myself before his majesty, and to make such a mad request of him, to whom should I, in the first place, address myself for an introduction? Do you not suppose that the very first person I spoke to, would treat me as a mad woman, and drive me back with all the indignity and abuse I should so justly merit? But, even if I should overcome this difficulty, and procure an audience of the sultan; as indeed I know he readily grants it to all his subjects, when they demand it of him for the purpose of obtaining justice; and that he even grants it with pleasure, when you have to ask a favour of him if he thinks you are worthy of it, what should I do then? Are you in either of these situations? Do you think that you deserve the favour which you wish me to ask for you? Are you worthy of it? What have you done for your prince, or for your country? How have you ever distinguished yourself? If then you have done nothing to deserve so great a favour, and if moreover you are not worthy of it, with what face can I truly make the demand? How can I even open my lips to propose such a thing to the sultan? His illustrious presence and the magnificence of his whole court will instantly stop my mouth. How shall I, who trembled before your poor late father, my husband, whenever I wished to ask him anything, even attempt such a thing? But there is also another reason, my son, which you have not yet thought of, and that is, that no one ever appears before the sultan, without offering him some present, when

any favour is required to be granted. Presents have at least this advantage, that if, for any reason of their own, the persons solicited refuse your request, they listen to the demand that is made without any repugnance. But what present have you to offer? And when should you ever have anything that might be at all worthy the attention of so mighty a monarch; what proportion can your present possibly have, with the demand you wish to make? Recollect yourself, and think that you aspire to a thing which it is impossible to obtain."

Aladdin listened with the greatest patience to everything his mother said, in order to dissuade him from his purpose; and having reflected for some time upon every part of her remonstrance, he addressed her as follows: "I really acknowledge to you, my dear mother, that it is a great piece of rashness in me to dare to carry my pretensions so high as I do; and that it must also appear very inconsiderate to request you with so much earnestness and warmth to go and propose this marriage to the sultan, without first having taken the proper means of procuring an audience and a favourable reception. I freely ask your pardon for doing so; but you must not wonder if the violence of the passion that possesses me, has prevented me from thinking about everything that was necessary to procure me the gratification I seek. I love the princess Badroul Boudour far beyond what you can possibly conceive; or rather I adore her, and shall for ever persevere in my wish and intention of marrying her. This is a matter on which my mind is irrevocably fixed. I am much obliged to you for the hints which you have thrown out in what you have said; and I look upon this beginning as an earnest of the complete success, which I flatter myself will attend my proposals.

"You say that it is customary for him who seeks an audience of the sultan to bear a present in his hand, and that I have nothing worthy to offer him. I agree with you about the present, and also that I never once thought of it. But with regard to what you say about my having nothing worthy of his acceptance, that is a different matter. Do you not suppose, mother, that what I brought home with me on the day that I was saved

in so wonderful a manner, as I have before told you, from an almost inevitable death, would be an acceptable present to the sultan? I mean what I brought home in the two purses, in my sash, and in my vest, and which we have both hitherto taken for coloured glass; but I am now undeceived, and can inform you that they are precious stones of almost inestimable value, and exactly suitable to the state and dignity of a great sovereign. I became acquainted with their value by frequenting the shops of jewellers; and you may, I assure you, depend upon the truth of what I say. None of those which I have seen at our jewellers are to be compared with those we have, either for size or beauty; and yet the dealers set a very high price upon them. In fact, we are both of us ignorant of the value of ours; although that is the case, however, as far as I can judge from the little experience I have, I am well persuaded the present cannot but be very agreeable to the sultan. You have a porcelain dish sufficiently large, and of a very good shape for holding them. Bring it here, and let us see the effect it will produce, when we have arranged them according to their different colours."

Aladdin's mother brought the dish, and he took the precious stones out of the two purses, and arranged them. The effect they produced in broad daylight by the variety of their colours, by their lustre and brilliancy, was so great, that both mother and son were absolutely dazzled, and were in the greatest astonishment, because they had both only seen them by the light of a lamp. It is true, that Aladdin had seen them on the trees, hanging like fruit, where they afforded a most brilliant sight; but as he was then as it were a child, he looked upon the jewels only as things proper to play with, and had regarded them in no other point of view.

After having for some time admired the beauty of the present; "You cannot now," said Aladdin resuming the conversation, "excuse yourself any longer from going and presenting yourself to the sultan, under the pretence that you have nothing to offer him. Here is a present, which, in my opinion, will procure for you the most favourable reception."

Although the mother of Aladdin, notwithstanding its great beauty and brilliancy, did not think this present near so valuable as her son did; yet she nevertheless supposed it would be very acceptable; she was therefore aware that she had nothing to answer respecting that point. She then again recurred to the nature of the request which Aladdin wished her to make to the sultan: this was a constant source of disquietude to her; "I cannot, my son," she said, "possibly conceive that this present will produce the effect you wish, or that the sultan will look upon you with a favourable eye. And it becomes necessary for me to acquit myself with propriety in the business you wish me to undertake. I feel convinced I shall not have courage enough to carry me through, but be struck quite dumb; and thus not only lose all my labour, but the present also, which, according to what you say, is most uncommonly rich and valuable. If I should fail in this manner, how painful will it be for me to come back and inform you of the destruction of all your hopes and expectations. I have thus told you what I know will happen, and you ought to believe it. But," added she, "if I should act so contrary to my opinion, as to submit to your wishes, and shall have sufficient courage to make the request you desire, be assured that the sultan will either ridicule me and send me back as a mad woman, or that he will be in such a passion, and with reason too, that both you and I shall most infallibly become the victims of it."

Aladdin's mother continued to give her son many other reasons, in order to prevail upon him to change his mind; but the charms of the princess Badroul Boudour had made too strong an impression upon the heart of Aladdin, to suffer his intentions to be altered. He persisted in requiring his mother to perform her part of what he had resolved upon; and the regard she had for him, as well as the dread lest he should give himself up to some horrid excess, at length conquered her repugnance, and she acceded to his wishes.

As it was now very late, and the time of going to the palace to be presented to the sultan was past for that day, they let the matter rest till the next. Aladdin and his mother talked of nothing else during the rest

of the day, and the former took every opportunity of saying to her all he could think of, to confirm her resolution of going to present herself to the sultan. But notwithstanding all that he could say, his mother could not be persuaded that she should ever succeed in this affair; and indeed there appeared every reason for her to be doubtful of it. "My dear child," said she, "even if the sultan should receive me as favourably as my regard for you would lead me to wish, and should listen with the greatest patience to the proposal you request me to make, will he not, even after so gracious a reception, inquire of me what property you possess, and where your estates are? for he will of course in the first instance rather ask about this matter than about your personal appearance; if, I say, he should ask me this question, what answer do you wish me to make?"

"Do not, mother, let us distress ourselves," replied Aladdin, "about a thing that may never happen. Let us first see how the sultan will receive you, and what answer he will give to your request. If he should wish to be informed of what you mention, I will find out some answer to make him. I put the greatest confidence in my lamp, by means of which we have been able for some years past to live in the manner we have done. It will not desert me when I have most need of it."

His mother had not a word to say to this speech of Aladdin. She might naturally suppose that the lamp which he mentioned would be able to perform much more astonishing things than simply to procure them the means of subsistence. This satisfied her, and at the same time smoothed all the difficulties which seemed to oppose themselves to the business she had promised to undertake for her son respecting the sultan. Aladdin, who easily penetrated into his mother's thoughts, said to her: "Above all things, observe to keep this matter secret; for upon that depends all the success we may either of us expect in this affair." They then separated for the night, and retired to bed: but love, joined to the great schemes of aggrandizement which the son had in view, prevented him from passing the night so tranquilly as he wished. He got up at daybreak, and went immediately to call his mother. He was anxious that she should dress

herself as soon as possible, in order that she might repair to the gate of the sultan's palace, and enter at the same time that the grand viziers and the other officers of state went into the divan or hall of audience, where the sultan always held his council in person.

Aladdin's mother did everything as her son wished. She took the porcelain dish, in which the present of jewels was, and folded it up in a very fine and white linen cloth. She then took another cloth, which was not so fine, and tied the four corners of it together, that she might carry it with less trouble. She afterwards set out, to the great joy of Aladdin, on the road towards the palace of the sultan. The grand vizier, accompanied by the other viziers and the proper officers of the court, had already gone in before she arrived at the gate. The crowd of persons who had business at the divan was very great. The doors were opened, and the mother of Aladdin went into the divan with the rest. It was a beautiful saloon, very spacious, and with a magnificent entrance. She stopped, and placed herself opposite to the throne of the sultan, near the grand vizier and other officers who formed the council on both sides. The different parties who had suits to press were called up one after the other, according to the order in which their petitions had been presented; and their different affairs were heard, pleaded, and determined, till the usual hour of breaking up the council. The sultan then rose, took leave of the members, and went back to his apartment, into which he was followed by the grand vizier. The other viziers and officers who formed the council then went away: as also did all those whose private business had brought them there, some being delighted at having gained their cause, while others were but ill satisfied with the decisions pronounced against them; in addition to whom was a third party, still anxious to have their business come on at as early a future meeting as possible.

Aladdin's mother, who saw the sultan arise and retire, rightly imagined that he would not appear any more that day, as she observed that every one was going away; she therefore determined to return home. When Aladdin saw her come back with the present in her hand, he knew not at

first what to think of the success of her journey. He could hardly open his mouth to inquire what intelligence she brought him, from the fear that she had something unfortunate to announce. This good woman, who had never before set her foot within the walls of a palace, and of course knew not in the least the customs of the place, very soon relieved her son from the embarrassment in which he was, by saying to him with an air of gaiety: "I have seen the sultan, my son, and I am persuaded he has seen me also. I placed myself directly opposite him; and there was no person in the way to prevent his seeing me: but he was so much engaged in speaking with those on each side of him, that I really felt compassion to see the patience and trouble he had to listen to them. This lasted so long, that I believe at length he was quite worn out; for he got up before any one expected it, and retired very suddenly, without staying to hear a great many others, who were all ranged in readiness to address him in their turn; and indeed this gave me great pleasure; for I began to lose all patience, and was extremely tired with remaining on my feet so long. There was, however, no other restraint; and I will not fail to return to-morrow; the sultan will not then, perhaps, be so much engaged."

However desperate Aladdin's passion was, he was obliged to be satisfied with this excuse, and to summon up all his patience. He had at least the satisfaction of knowing that his mother had got over the most difficult part of the business, which was that of obtaining an interview with the sultan; and therefore hoped that, like those who had spoken to him in her presence, she would not hesitate to acquit herself of the commission with which she was entrusted, when the favourable moment of addressing him should arrive.

The next morning, quite as early as the preceding day, Aladdin's mother set out for the sultan's palace with the present of jewels; but her journey was useless. She found the gate of the divan shut, and learned that the council never sat two days together, but alternately, and that she must come again on the following morning. She went back with this intelligence to her son, who was again obliged to exert his patience. She

returned again to the palace six different times on the appointed days, always placing herself opposite to the sultan; but she was every time as unsuccessful as at first; and would probably have gone a hundred times as uselessly, if the sultan, who constantly saw her standing opposite to him every day the divan sat, had not taken notice of her. This is the more probable, as it was only those who had petitions to present or causes to be heard, that approached the sultan, each in his turn pleading his cause according to his rank; and Aladdin's mother was not in this situation.

One day, however, when the council was broken up, and the sultan had retired to his apartment, he said to the grand vizier: "For some time past, I have observed a certain woman, who has come regularly every day I hold my council, and who carries something in her hand wrapped up in a linen cloth. She remains standing, from the beginning of the audience till it is concluded; and always takes care to place herself opposite to me. Do you know what she wants?"

The grand vizier, who did not wish to appear ignorant of the matter, though in fact he knew no more about it than the sultan himself, replied: "Your majesty, sir, is not ignorant that women often make complaints upon the most trivial subjects; she appears to have come to your majesty with some complaint that they have sold her some bad meat, or something else of equal insignificance." This answer, however, did not satisfy the sultan. "The very next day the council sits," said he to the grand vizier, "if this woman returns, do not fail to call her, that I may hear what she has to say." The grand vizier only answered by kissing his hand, and placing it on his head, to show that he would rather lose it than fail in his duty.

The mother of Aladdin had already been so much in the habit of going to the palace on the days the council met, that she now thought it no trouble, provided she by these means proved to her son that she neglected nothing that depended upon her, and that he had therefore no reason to complain of her. She consequently returned to the palace the

next day the council met, and placed herself near the entrance of the divan, opposite to the sultan, as had been her usual practice.

The grand vizier had not made his report of any business before the sultan perceived Aladdin's mother. Touched with compassion at the excessive patience she had shown, "In the first place," said he to the grand vizier, "and for fear you should forget it, do you not observe the woman whom I mentioned to you the last time? order her to come here, and we will begin by hearing what she has to say, and expedite her business." The grand vizier immediately pointed out this woman to the chief of the ushers, who was standing near him, ready to receive his orders, and desired him to go and bring her before the sultan. The officer went directly to the mother of Aladdin, and having made a sign to her, she followed him to the foot of the throne, where he left her, and went back to his place near the grand vizier.

Aladdin's mother, following the example that so many others whom she had seen approach the sultan had set her, prostrated herself, with her face towards the carpet which covered the steps of the throne; and she remained in that situation till the sultan commanded her to rise. She did so; and the sultan then addressed her in these words: "For a long time past, my good woman, I have seen you regularly attend my divan, and remain near the entrance from the time it began to assemble till it broke up. What is the business that brings you here?" On hearing this, she prostrated herself a second time, and on rising, thus answered: "High monarch, mightier than all the monarchs of the world, before I inform your majesty of the extraordinary and almost incredible cause that compels me to appear before your sublime throne, I entreat you to pardon the boldness, nay I might say the impudence of the request I am going to make to you. It is of so uncommon a nature, that I tremble, and feel almost overcome with shame to propose it to my sultan." In order, however, that she might have full liberty to explain herself, the sultan commanded every one to leave the divan, and remained with only his grand vizier in

attendance: he then told her that she might speak, and discover everything without any fear.

The goodness of the sultan, however, did not perfectly satisfy Aladdin's mother, although he had thus prevented her from being obliged to explain her wishes before the whole assembly. She was still anxious to screen herself from the indignation which she could not but dread that the proposal she had to make to him would excite, and from which she could not otherwise defend herself. "Sire," said she, again addressing the sultan, "I once more entreat your majesty to assure me of your pardon beforehand, in case you should think my request at all injurious or offensive."—"Whatever it may be," replied the sultan, "I pardon you from this moment; not the least harm shall happen to you from anything you may say; speak therefore with confidence."

When Aladdin's mother had thus taken every precaution, like a woman who dreaded the anger of the sultan at the very delicate proposal she was about to make to him, she faithfully related to him by what means Aladdin had seen the princess Badroul Boudour, and with what a violent passion this fatal sight had inspired him; the declaration that he had made concerning her; and the mission with which he had charged his mother, together with all the remonstrances the latter had urged, in order to avert his thoughts from this passion. "A passion," added she, "as injurious to your majesty, as it is to the princess your daughter; but my son would not profit by anything I could say, nor would he acknowledge his temerity; he obstinately persevered, and even threatened me to be guilty of some rash action or other through his despair, if I refused to come and demand of your majesty the princess in marriage. I have been obliged, therefore, to comply with his wishes, although this compliance was very much against my will. And once more, I entreat your majesty to pardon not only me for making such a request, but also my son Aladdin, for having conceived the rash and daring design of aspiring to so illustrious an alliance."

The sultan listened to this speech with the greatest patience and good-

humour, and showed not the least mark of either anger or indignation at the request; nor did he even turn it into ridicule. Before he returned any answer to this good woman, he asked her what she had got thus tied up in a cloth. Upon this she immediately took up the porcelain dish, which she had at first set down at the foot of the throne, and having uncovered it, she presented it to the sultan.

It is impossible to express the surprise and astonishment which this monarch felt, when he saw, collected together in that dish, such a quantity of the most precious, perfect, and brilliant jewels, the size of every one of which was greater than any he had before seen. His admiration for some time was such, that it rendered him absolutely motionless. When, however, he began to recollect himself, he took the present from the hand of Aladdin's mother, and exclaimed, in a transport of joy, "Ah! how very beautiful, how extremely rich!" And then, having admired them all one after another and put each again in the same place, he turned to his grand vizier, and showing him the dish, asked him, if it was not also his opinion that he had never before seen any jewels so perfect and valuable. The vizier was himself delighted with them. "Well," added the sultan, "what do you say to such a present? Is not the donor worthy of the princess my daughter; and must I not give her to him, who comes and demands her at such a price?"

"Sire," said the vizier, "every one must allow, that this present is not unworthy of the princess; but I entreat you to tarry three months before you absolutely determine, in order that you may inquire who and what this Aladdin is." Although the sultan was sufficiently prepossessed in Aladdin's favour by the magnificent present he had received from him, he nevertheless paid every attention to what the vizier said, and even granted him this favour. He, therefore, turned towards Aladdin's mother, and said to her: "Go, my good woman; return home, and tell your son, that I agree to the proposal he has made through you, but that I cannot bestow the princess my daughter in marriage, until I have ordered and

prepared a variety of furniture and ornaments, which will not be ready for three months. At the end of that time do you come hither again."

The mother of Aladdin went back, and felt the greater joy because she had, in the first place, conceived even the access to the sultan for a person of her condition as absolutely impossible; and because also she had received so favourable an answer, when, on the contrary, she had expected a rebuke that would have overwhelmed her with confusion. When Aladdin saw his mother enter the house, there were two circumstances that led him to suppose she brought him good news; the one was, that she had returned that morning much sooner than usual; and the other, that her countenance expressed pleasure and good-humour. "Well, mother," said Aladdin, "what have I to hope? Am I doomed to die with despair?" When she had taken off her veil, and sat down on the sofa by his side: "My son," she said, "that I may not hold you any longer in suspense, I will, in the first place, tell you, that so far from thinking of dying you have every reason to be satisfied." She then went on with her narrative, and told him in what manner she had obtained an audience, before every other person, which was the reason that she had come back so soon; the precautions she had taken to make her request to the sultan, in such a way, that he should not be offended when he came to know that it was to demand of him the princess Badroul Boudour in marriage for her son; and the very favourable answer the sultan had given her from his own lips. She then added, that as far as she could judge from everything the sultan did, it was the present that had such a powerful effect upon his mind, as to induce him to return so favourable an answer as that she now brought back.

When Aladdin received this intelligence, he thought himself the happiest of mortals. He thanked his mother for all the pains she had taken throughout the whole of this transaction, and for the happy success which was so important to his repose. So impatient was he, however, to possess the object of his affection, that three months seemed to him to be an age; he nevertheless endeavoured to wait with patience, as he relied upon

the word of the sultan, which he considered as irrevocable. In the mean time, he not only reckoned the hours, the days, and the weeks, but even every moment, till this period should elapse.

Aladdin suffered the three months which the sultan wished to elapse before the marriage of the princess Badroul Boudour and himself, to pass without any application. He kept, however, an exact account of every day, and when the whole period was expired, he did not omit to send his mother on the very next morning to the palace, in order to put the sultan in mind of his promise. She went therefore to the palace, as her son had desired her, and stood at her usual place, near the entrance of the divan. The sultan no sooner cast his eyes that way, than he recollected her, and she instantly brought to his mind the request she had made, and the exact time to which he had deferred it. As the grand vizier approached to make some report to him, the sultan stopped him by saying: "I perceive that good woman who presented us with the beautiful collection of jewels, some time since; order her to come forward, and you can make your report after I have heard what she has to say." The grand vizier directly turned his head towards the entrance of the divan, and perceived also the mother of Aladdin. He immediately called to the chief of the ushers, and pointing her out to him, desired him to bring her forward.

Aladdin's mother advanced to the foot of the throne, where she prostrated herself in the usual manner. After she had risen, the sultan asked her what she wished. "Sire," she replied, "I again present myself before the throne of your majesty, to represent to you in the name of my son Aladdin, that the three months which you had desired him to wait, in consequence of the request I had to make to your majesty, are expired; and to entreat you to have the goodness to recall the circumstance to your remembrance."

When the sultan had desired a delay of three months before he answered the request of this good woman the first time he saw her, he thought he should hear no more of a marriage, which, from the apparent poverty and low situation of Aladdin's mother, who always presented her-

self before him in a very coarse and common dress, appeared to him so little suited to the princess his daughter. In addition, thinking thus, he had neglected to make any inquiries respecting Aladdin. The application therefore which she now made to him to keep his word embarrassed him very much, and he did not think it prudent to give her at the moment a direct answer. He consulted his grand vizier, and told him the repugnance he felt at concluding a marriage between the princess and an unknown person, whom fortune he conjectured had not raised much above the condition of a common subject.

The grand vizier did not hesitate to give his opinion on the subject. "Sire," said he to the sultan, "it seems to me, that there is a very easy and yet certain method to avoid this unequal marriage; and of which this Aladdin, even if he were known to your majesty, could not complain; it is to set so high a price upon the princess your daughter, that all his riches, however great they may be, cannot amount to the value. This will be a way to make him desist from so bold, not to say arrogant an attempt, and which he certainly does not seem to have considered well before he engaged in it."

The sultan approved of the advice of his grand vizier, and after some little reflection, he said to Aladdin's mother: "Sultans, my good woman, ought always to keep their words; and I am ready to adhere to mine, and render your son happy by marrying him to the princess, my daughter; but as I cannot bestow her in marriage till I am better acquainted how she will be provided for, tell your son, that I will fulfil my promise, as soon as he shall send me forty large basins of massive gold, quite full of the same kind of jewels which you have already presented to me from him, brought by an equal number of black slaves, each of whom shall be conducted by a white slave, young, well made, of good appearance, and richly dressed. These are the conditions, upon which I am ready to bestow upon him the princess my daughter. Go, my good woman; and I will wait till you bring me his answer."

Aladdin's mother again prostrated herself at the foot of the throne,

and retired. In her way home she smiled within herself at the foolish thoughts of her son. "Where indeed," said she, "is he to find so many golden basins, and such a great quantity of coloured glass to fill them? Will he attempt to go back to the subterraneous cavern, the entrance of which is shut up, in order to gather them off the trees? And where truly can he procure all these handsome slaves, which the sultan demands? He is far enough from having his pretensions fulfilled; and I believe he will not be very well satisfied with my embassy." When she entered the house, with her mind occupied by these thoughts, from which she judged Aladdin had nothing more to hope: "My son," said she, "I advise you to think no more of your marriage with the princess Badroul Boudour. The sultan indeed received me with great goodness, and I believe that he was well inclined towards you; the grand vizier, however, if I am not mistaken, made him alter his opinion, as you will yourself think when you have heard the account I am going to give you. After I had represented to his majesty that the three months were expired, and requested him, as from you, to recollect his promise, I observed that he did not make me the answer I am going to inform you of, until he had spoken for some time in a low tone of voice to the grand vizier." Aladdin's mother then gave him an exact detail of everything the sultan had said, and of the conditions upon which he consented to the marriage of the princess his daughter. "He is even now, my son," added she, "waiting for your answer; but between ourselves," she continued, with a smile, "he may wait long enough."—"Not so long as you may think, mother," replied Aladdin; "and the sultan deceives himself, if he supposes, by such exorbitant demands, to prevent me thinking any more of the princess Badroul Boudour. I expected to have had much greater difficulties to surmount, and that he would have put a much higher price upon my incomparable princess. But I am now very well satisfied, and what he requires of me is trifling, in comparison to what I would give him to possess such a treasure. While I am considering how to comply with his demands, do you go and see about something for dinner, and leave me to myself."

As soon as his mother was gone out to purchase some provisions, Aladdin took the lamp, and having rubbed it, the Genie instantly appeared, and demanded of him in the usual terms, what it was he wanted, for he was ready to obey him. "The sultan agreed to give me the princess his daughter in marriage," said Aladdin: "but he first demands of me forty large heavy basins of massive gold, filled to the very top with the various fruits of the garden from which I took the lamp, of which you are the slave. He requires also, that these forty basins should be carried by as many black slaves, preceded by an equal number of young, handsome, and elegant white slaves, very richly dressed. Go, and procure me this present as soon as possible, that I may send it to the sultan before the sitting of the divan is over." The Genie merely said that his commands should be instantly executed, and disappeared.

In a very short time the Genie returned with forty black slaves, each carrying upon his head a large golden basin of great weight, full of pearls, diamonds, rubies, and emeralds, equally valuable for their brilliancy and size, with those which had already been presented to the sultan. Each basin was covered with a cloth of silver, embroidered with flowers of gold. All these slaves, with their golden basins, together with the white ones, entirely filled the house, which was but small, as well as the court in front, and a garden behind it. The Genie asked Aladdin if he were contented, and whether he had any further commands for him: on being told he had not, he immediately disappeared.

Aladdin's mother now returned from market, and was in the greatest surprise on coming home to see so many persons, and so much riches. When she had set down the provisions which she had brought with her, she was going to take off her veil, but Aladdin prevented her. "My dear mother," he cried, "there is no time to lose. It is of consequence that you should return to the palace before the divan breaks up, and should immediately conduct there the present and dowry which the sultan demands for the princess Badroul Boudour, that he may judge from my diligence

and exactness, of the ardent and sincere zeal I have to procure for myself the honour of an alliance with him."

Without waiting for his mother's answer, Aladdin opened the door that led into the street, and ordered all the slaves to go out, one after the other. He then placed a white slave before each of the black ones, who carried the golden basins on their heads. When his mother, who followed the last black slave, was gone out, he shut the door, and remained quietly in his chamber, with the full expectation that the sultan, after receiving such a present as he had required, would now readily consent to accept him for a son-in-law.

The first white slave that went out of Aladdin's house occasioned every one who was going past to stop, and before all the eighty slaves, alternately a black and white one, had finished going out, the street was filled with a great crowd of people; who collected from all parts, to see so grand and extraordinary a sight. The dress of each slave was made of a rich stuff, and so studded with precious stones, that persons who thought themselves the best judges, reckoned each of them worth more than a million. Each dress was also very appropriate, and well adapted to the wearer. The graceful manner, elegant form, and great similarity of each slave, together with their marching at regular distances from each other, and the dazzling lustre constantly shed by the different jewels that were set in their girdles of massive gold, added to the branches of precious stones fastened to their head-dresses, which were all of a particular make, produced in the multitude of spectators who were assembled, such excessive admiration, that they could not take their eyes from them so long as any one of them remained in sight. But all the streets were so thronged with people, that every one was obliged to remain in the spot where he happened to be.

As it was necessary to pass through several streets before they could arrive at the palace, the procession went through a great part of the city; and most of the inhabitants, of every rank and quality, were witnesses to this delightful spectacle. When the first of the eighty slaves arrived at

the gate of the first court of the palace, the porters, as soon as they perceived this astonishing procession approaching, were in the greatest haste to open it, as they took the first for a king, so richly and magnificently was he dressed. They were advancing to kiss the hem of his robe, when the slave, instructed by the Genie, stopped them, and in a grave tone of voice, said, "Our master will appear, when the time shall be proper."

The first slave, followed by all the rest, advanced as far as the second court, which was very spacious, and contained the apartments inhabited by the sultan, when the divan sat. The officers, who were at the head of the sultan's guards, were very handsomely clothed: but they were completely eclipsed by the eighty slaves who were the bearers of Aladdin's present, and who themselves formed part of it. Nothing, in short, throughout the sultan's whole palace, appeared so beautiful and brilliant; and however magnificently dressed the different nobles of the court might be, they dwindled to nothing in comparison with what was now to be seen.

As the sultan had been informed of the march and arrival of these slaves, he had given orders to have them admitted. As soon, therefore, as they presented themselves before it, they found the door of the divan open. They entered in regular order, one part going to the right, and the other to the left. After they were all within the hall, and had formed a large semicircle before the throne of the sultan, each of the black slaves placed the basin which he carried upon the carpet. They then all prostrated themselves so low that their foreheads touched the ground. The white slaves, also, at the same time performed the same ceremony. They then all got up, and in doing so, the black slaves skilfully uncovered the basins, which were before them, and then remained standing with their hands crossed upon their breasts in a very modest attitude.

The mother of Aladdin, who had in the mean time advanced to the foot of the throne, having first prostrated herself, thus addressed the sultan. "My son Aladdin, sire, is not ignorant that this present, which he has sent your majesty, is very much beneath the inestimable worth of the princess Badroul Boudour. He nevertheless hopes, that your majesty

will favourably accept it, and that you will endeavour to make his alliance agreeable to the princess. He has the greater reliance that his expectations will be fulfilled, because he has tried to conform himself to the conditions which it pleased you to point out."

The sultan was unable to pay the least attention to the complimentary address of Aladdin's mother. The very first look he cast upon the forty golden basins, heaped up with jewels of the most brilliant lustre, finest water, and greatest value he had ever seen, as well as the eighty slaves, who seemed like so many kings, both from the magnificence of their dress and their fine appearance, made such an impression upon him, that he could not restrain his admiration. Instead, therefore, of making any answer to the compliments of Aladdin's mother, he addressed himself to the grand vizier, who could not himself conceive where such an immense profusion of riches could possibly come from. "Well, vizier," he exclaimed, in the hearing of all, "what do you think of the person, whoever he may be, who has now sent me so rich and wonderful a present; a person, of whom neither I, nor you, have the least knowledge? Do you not think that he is worthy of the princess my daughter?"

Whatever jealousy or pain the grand vizier might feel, at thus seeing an unknown person become the son-in-law of the sultan, he was nevertheless afraid to dissemble his real opinion on the present occasion. It was very evident that Aladdin had by these means become, in the eyes of the sultan, very deserving of being honoured with so high an alliance. He, therefore, answered the sultan in these terms. "Far be it from me, sire, to suppose, that he who makes your majesty so worthy a present, should himself be undeserving the honour you wish to bestow upon him. I would even say, that he deserved still more, if indeed all the treasure of the universe could be put in competition with the princess your daughter." All the nobles, who attended and formed the divan, showed by their applause, that their opinion was the same as that of the grand vizier.

The sultan hesitated no longer. He did not even think of informing himself, whether Aladdin possessed any other qualification that would

render him worthy of aspiring to the honour of becoming his son-in-law. The sight alone of such immense riches, and the wonderful celerity with which Aladdin had fulfilled his request, without making the least difficulty about the conditions, however exorbitant, for which he had stipulated, easily persuaded him, that Aladdin would not be deficient in anything that could render him as accomplished and deserving as he could wish. That he might, therefore, send back Aladdin's mother as well satisfied as she could possibly expect, he said to her, "Go, my good woman, and tell your son, that I am waiting with open arms to receive and embrace him; and that the greater diligence he makes to come and receive from my hands the gift I am ready to bestow upon him, in the princess my daughter, the greater pleasure he will afford me."

Aladdin's mother had no sooner departed, as happy as a woman of her condition could be, in seeing her son exalted to a situation beyond her greatest expectations, than the sultan put an end to the audience; and coming down from his throne, he ordered the eunuchs, belonging to the princess, to be called, and to take up the basins, and carry them to the apartment of their mistress, where he himself went, in order to examine them with her at their leisure. The chief of the eunuchs immediately caused this order to be complied with.

The eighty slaves were not forgotten; they were conducted into the interior of the palace, and when, some time after, he was speaking of their splendour to the princess, he ordered them to come opposite to her apartment, that she might see them through the lattices, and be convinced that so far from having given an exaggerated account of them, he had said much less than they deserved.

In the mean time, Aladdin's mother got home, and instantly showed by her manner that she was the bearer of most excellent news. "You have every reason, my dear son," she said, "to be satisfied. You have accomplished your wishes, contrary to my expectations, and what I have hitherto declared. But not to keep you any longer in suspense, I must inform you, that the sultan, with the applause of his whole court, has an-

nounced that you are worthy to possess the princess Badroul Boudour and he is now waiting to embrace you, and to conclude the marriage. It is therefore time for you to think of making some preparations for this interview, that you may endeavour to equal the high opinion he has formed of your person. After what I have seen of the wonders you have brought about, however, I am sure you will not fail in anything. I ought not, moreover, to forget to tell you, that the sultan waits for you with the greatest impatience, and therefore, that you must lose no time in making your appearance before him."

Aladdin was so delighted with this intelligence, and so taken up with the thoughts of the enchanting object of his love, that he hardly answered his mother, but instantly retired to his chamber. He then took up the lamp that had thus far been so friendly to him by supplying all his wants and fulfilling all his wishes, and had no sooner rubbed it, than the Genie again showed his ready obedience to its power, by instantly appearing to execute his commands. "Genie," said Aladdin to him, "I have called you to take me immediately to a bath; and when I shall have finished bathing, I wish you to have in readiness for me a richer, and if possible more magnificent dress than was ever worn by any monarch." Aladdin had no sooner concluded his speech, than the Genie rendered him invisible, like himself, took him in his arms, and transported him to a bath formed of the finest marble of the most beautiful and diversified colour. Without being able to see any one who waited upon him, Aladdin was undressed in a large and handsome saloon. From thence he was conducted into the bath, moderately heated, and was here washed and rubbed with various sorts of perfumed water. After having passed through the different chambers by which the various degrees of heat in the bath were regulated, he went out, but quite a different person, as it were, from what he was before. His skin was white and fresh, his countenance blooming, and his whole body felt lighter and more active. He then went back to the saloon, where, instead of the dress he had left, he found the one he had desired the Genie to procure. By his assistance he dressed himself, showing the

greatest admiration at each part of it, as he put it on : and the whole of it was even beyond what he could possibly have conceived. This business was no sooner over, than the Genie transported him back into the same chamber of his own house whence he had brought him ; he then inquired if he had any other commands. "Yes," replied Aladdin, "I am waiting till you bring me a horse as quickly as possible, which shall surpass in beauty and excellence the most valuable horse in the sultan's stables ; the housings, saddle, bridle, and other furniture of which shall be worth more than a million of money. I also order you to get me at the same time twenty slaves, as well and richly clothed as those who carried the present, to attend on each side and behind my person, and twenty more to march in two ranks before me. You must also procure six female slaves to attend upon my mother, all as well and richly clothed as those of the princess Badroul Boudour, each of whom must carry a complete dress, fit in point of splendour and magnificence for any sultana. I want also ten thousand pieces of gold, in ten separate purses. These are all my commands, at present. Go, and be diligent."

Aladdin had no sooner given his orders to the Genie, than he disappeared, and a moment after returned with the horse, the forty slaves, ten of whom had each a purse with ten thousand pieces of gold in every one, and the six female slaves, each carrying a different dress for Aladdin's mother, wrapped up in a piece of silver tissue, and presented the whole to him.

Aladdin took only four out of the ten purses, and presented them to his mother for any purpose, as he said, for which she might want them. He left the other six in the hands of the slaves, who carried them, desiring them to keep them, and to throw them out by handfuls to the populace as they went along the streets in the way to the palace of the sultan. He ordered them also to march before him with the others, three on one side and three on the other. He then presented the six female slaves to his mother ; telling her, that they were for her, and would for the future con-

sider her as their mistress; and that the dresses they had in their hands were for her use.

When Aladdin had arranged everything as he wished, he told the Genie that he would call him when he had any further occasion for his services. The latter instantly vanished. Aladdin then employed himself only in hastening to fulfil the wishes the sultan had expressed, to see him as soon as possible. He directly sent one of the forty slaves, whom it is useless to call the best made or most handsome, for they were all equally so, to the palace, with an injunction to address himself to the chief of the ushers, and inquire of him when his master might have the honour of throwing himself at the feet of the sultan. The slave was not long in delivering this message, and brought word back that the sultan was waiting for him with the greatest impatience.

Aladdin instantly mounted his horse, and began his march, in the exact order that has been mentioned. Although he had never been on horseback in his life, he nevertheless appeared perfectly at his ease; and those who were the best skilled in horsemanship, would never have taken him for a novice. The streets through which he passed were in an instant filled with crowds of people, who made the air resound with their acclamations, their shouts of admiration, and benedictions; particularly when the six slaves who carried the purses threw handfuls of gold on all sides. These expressions of joy and applause, however, did not only come from the crowd who were employed in picking up the money, but chiefly from those of a superior rank in life, who thus publicly bestowed all the praise that such liberality as Aladdin's deserved. Not only they who remembered to have seen him playing about the streets even when he was no longer a child, like a vagabond, did not now in the least recognise him; but even those persons who had seen and known him very lately, could not bring him to their minds, so much were his features and character changed. This all arose from the power possessed by the wonderful lamp, of acquiring, for those who had it in their keeping, every perfection adapted to the situation which such persons arrived at by making a good

and proper use of its virtues. More attention was therefore paid by every one to the person of Aladdin, than to the magnificence with which he was surrounded, and which most of them had before seen when the slaves who carried, and those who accompanied the present, went to the palace. The horse, however, was extremely admired by those who were judges, and were able to appreciate its beauty and excellence, without being dazzled by the richness and brilliancy of the diamonds and other precious stones with which it was covered.

He at length arrived at the palace, where everything was ready for his reception. When he came to the second gate, he wished to alight, agreeably to the custom observed by the grand vizier, the generals of the army, and the governors of the superior provinces; but the chief of the ushers, who attended him by the sultan's orders, prevented him, and accompanied him to the hall of audience, where he assisted him in dismounting from his horse, though Aladdin opposed it as much as possible, not wishing to receive such a distinction: all his efforts were, however, vain. In the meantime, all the ushers formed a double row at the entrance into the hall; and their chief, placing Aladdin on his right, went up through the midst of them, and conducted him quite to the foot of the throne.

As soon as the sultan perceived Aladdin, he was not more surprised at seeing him more richly and magnificently clothed than he was himself, than most unexpectedly astonished at the propriety of his manner, his beautiful figure, and a certain air of grandeur, very far removed from the degraded state in which his mother appeared in his presence. His astonishment, however, did not prevent him from rising and quickly descending two or three steps of his throne, in order to prevent Aladdin from throwing himself at his feet, and to embrace him with the most evident marks of friendship and affection. After this civility, Aladdin again endeavoured to cast himself at the sultan's feet; but he held his hand, and compelled him to ascend and sit between him and his grand vizier.

Aladdin then addressed the sultan in these words: "I receive the honours which your majesty has the goodness to bestow upon me, because

it is your pleasure ; but you must permit me to say, that I have not forgotten that I was born your slave, that I am well aware of the greatness of your power, and that I am not ignorant how much my birth places me beneath the splendour and brilliancy of that superior rank to which you are elevated. If there can be the shadow of a reason," he continued, "from which I can in the least merit so favourable a reception, I candidly avow, that I am indebted for it to a boldness which chance alone brought about, and in consequence of which I have raised my eyes, my thoughts, and my desires, to the divine princess who is the sole object of my eager wishes. I request your majesty's pardon for my rashness, but I cannot dissemble, that grief would occasion my death, if I should lose the hope of seeing my desires accomplished."

"My son," replied the sultan, again embracing him, "you would do me injustice, to doubt, even for an instant, the sincerity of my word : your life is too dear to me not to endeavour to preserve it for ever, by presenting you with the remedy that is in my power. I prefer the pleasure I derive from seeing and hearing you, to all our united treasures."

As he concluded this speech, the sultan made a sign, and the air was immediately filled with the sound of trumpets, hautbois, and tymbals, and the sultan then conducted Aladdin into a magnificent saloon, where a great feast was served up. The sultan and Aladdin ate by themselves ; the grand vizier and nobles of the court, each according to their dignity and rank, waited upon them during their repast. The sultan, who had his eyes always fixed upon Aladdin, so great was the pleasure he derived from seeing him, entered into conversation on a variety of different topics. And while they were talking as they sat at table, whatever the subject of their discourse happened to be, Aladdin spoke with so much information and knowledge, that he completely confirmed the sultan in the good opinion which he had at first formed of him.

When the repast was over, the sultan ordered the grand judge of his capital to attend, and commanded him instantly to prepare a contract of marriage between the princess Badroul Boudour, and Aladdin. While

this was doing, the sultan conversed with Aladdin upon indifferent subjects, in the presence of the grand vizier and the nobles of the court, who all equally admired the solidity of his understanding, the great facility and fluency of his language, and the pure and delicate metaphors with which he was in the habit of ornamenting his discourse.

When the judge had drawn out the contract with all the requisite forms, the sultan asked Aladdin, if he wished to remain in the palace and conclude all the ceremonies that day. "Sire," he replied, "however impatient I may be to have entire possession of all your majesty's bounties, I request you to permit me to defer my happiness, until I shall have built a palace for the reception of the princess that shall even be worthy of her merit and dignity. And for this purpose, I request that you will have the goodness to point out a suitable place, situated near your own, that I may always be ready to pay my court to your majesty. I will then neglect nothing, to get it finished with all possible diligence."—"My son," answered the sultan, "take whatever spot you think proper. There is a large open space before my palace, and I have thought for some time about filling it up; but remember, that to have my happiness complete, I cannot too soon see you united to my daughter." Having said this, he again embraced Aladdin, who now took leave of the sultan, in as polished a manner as if he had been brought up and spent all his life at court.

Aladdin then mounted his horse, and returned home, with his suite in the same order in which they came, going back through the same crowd and receiving the same acclamations from the people, who wished him all happiness and prosperity. As soon as he had entered the court and alighted from his horse, he retired to his own chamber. He instantly rubbed the lamp, and called the Genie as usual. He had not to wait: the Genie appeared directly, and offered his services. "Genie," said Aladdin to him, "I have hitherto had every reason to praise the precision and promptitude with which you have punctually executed whatever I have required of you, by means of the power of your mistress, this lamp. You must now, through your regard for her, appear if possible more zealous,

and make greater despatch than you have yet done. I command you, therefore, to build me a palace, in as short a time as you possibly can, opposite to that belonging to the sultan, and at a proper distance; and let this palace be every way worthy to receive the princess Badroul Boudour, my bride. I leave the choice of the materials to yourself, that is to say, whether it shall be of porphyry, of jasper, of agate, of lapis lazuli, or of the finest and greatest variety of marble; and also the form of the palace; I only expect, that at the top there shall be erected a large saloon, with a dome in the centre, and four equal sides, the walls of which shall be formed of massive gold and silver, in alternate layers, with twenty-four windows, six on each side; that the lattices of each window, except one, which is to be purposely left unfinished, shall be enriched with diamonds, rubies, and emeralds, set with the greatest taste and symmetry, and in such a style, that nothing in the whole world can equal it. I also wish this palace to have a large court in the front, another behind, and a garden. But above everything else, be sure that there is a place which you will point out to me, well supplied with money, both in gold and silver. There must also be kitchens, offices, magazines, receptacles for rich and valuable furniture, suited to the different seasons, and all very appropriate to the magnificence of such a palace. And also stables filled with the most beautiful horses, with the grooms and attendants for the kitchen and offices, and female slaves, for the service of the princess. In short, you understand what I mean. Go, and return as soon as it is completed."

The sun had retired to rest by the time that Aladdin had finished giving his orders to the Genie, respecting the construction of the palace of which he had thus formed an ideal plan. The very next morning, when the day first broke, Aladdin, whose love for the princess prevented him from sleeping in tranquillity, had scarcely risen before the Genie presented himself. "Sir," said he, "your palace is finished, come and see if it be according to your wish." Aladdin had no sooner signified his assent, than the Genie transported him to it in an instant. He found it to exceed his utmost expectation, and he could not sufficiently admire it.

The Genie conducted him through every part of it, and he everywhere found the greatest riches, applied with the utmost propriety. There were, also, the proper officers and slaves, all dressed according to their rank, and suited to their different employments. Amongst other things, he did not omit to show him the treasury, the door of which was opened by a treasurer, of whose fidelity the Genie confidently assured him. He here observed large vases, filled to the very top with purses of different sizes, according to the sums they contained, and so nicely arranged, that it was quite a pleasure to behold them. The Genie then carried Aladdin to the stables, where he made him take notice of the most beautiful horses in the world, with all the officers and grooms busily employed about them. He then led him into the different magazines, filled with everything that was necessary for them, both useful and ornamental, as well as for their support.

When Aladdin had examined the whole palace, without omitting a single part, from the top to the bottom, and more particularly the saloon, with the four and twenty windows, and had seen all the riches and magnificence it contained, as well as every other thing even in greater abundance and with greater propriety than he had ordered; "Genie," said he, "no one can be better satisfied than I am, and I should be very wrong to make the least complaint. There is one thing only, which I did not mention to you, because it escaped my recollection; it is to have a carpet of the finest velvet, laid from the gate of the sultan's palace to the door of the apartment in this palace which is to be appropriated to the princess, that she may walk upon it when she leaves the sultan's palace."—"I will return in an instant," replied the Genie; and he had not been gone a moment, before Aladdin saw what he wished done, though without knowing by what means. The Genie again made his appearance, and carried Aladdin back to his own house, just as the gates of the sultan's palace were about to be opened.

The porters, who came to open the gates, and who were accustomed to see an open space where Aladdin's palace now stood, were much as-

tonished at observing it filled up, and at seeing a velvet carpet, which came from that part directly opposite to the gate of the palace. They could not at first make out what it was; but their astonishment increased, when they distinctly beheld the superb palace of Aladdin. The news of this wonderful event soon spread itself throughout the palace, and the grand vizier, who had arrived just as the gates were open, was not less astonished than the rest. The first thing he did, was to go to the sultan; but he wished to make the whole business pass for enchantment. "Why do you endeavour, vizier," replied the sultan, "to make this appear the effect of enchantment? You know as well as I do, that this is the palace of Aladdin, which I, in your presence yesterday, gave him permission to build for the reception of the princess my daughter. After the immense display of riches which we have seen, can you think it so very extraordinary, that he should be able to build a palace in so short a time? He wished, no doubt, to surprise us, and we every day see what miracles riches can perform. Own to me, that you wish, through motives of jealousy, to make this appear an enchantment." The hour for entering the council-hall prevented a continuation of this conversation.

When Aladdin had returned and dismissed the Genie, he found that his mother was up, and had begun to put on one of the dresses which he had ordered for her the day before. About the time that the sultan left the council, Aladdin requested his mother to go to the palace, attended by the same female slaves that the Genie had procured for her use. He desired her also, if she should see the sultan, to inform him, that she came for the purpose of having the honour of accompanying the princess in the evening, when it was proper for her to go to her own palace. She then set out; but, although she and her slaves were dressed as richly as any sultanas, there was much less crowd to see them, as they were veiled, and the richness and magnificence of their habits were hidden by a sort of cloak, that quite covered them. Aladdin himself mounted his horse, and left his paternal house, never more to return; but did not forget his wonderful lamp, whose assistance had been so highly advantageous to him,

and had in fact been the cause of all his happiness. He went to his own palace in the same public manner, surrounded with all the pomp with which he had presented himself to the sultan on the preceding day.

As soon as the porters of the sultan's palace perceived the mother of Aladdin, they gave notice of it through the proper officer to the sultan himself. He immediately sent orders to the bands, who played upon trumpets, tymbals, tabors, fifes, and hautbois, and who were already placed in different parts of the terrace, and in a moment the air echoed with their joyful sounds, and spread pleasure throughout the city. The merchants began to dress out their shops with rich carpets and seats adorned with foliage, and to prepare illuminations for the night. The artificers quitted their work, and all the people thronged to the great square that still was left between the palaces of the sultan and Aladdin. That of the latter first attracted their admiration, not merely because they had been accustomed to see only that of the sultan, which could not be put in comparison with Aladdin's; but their greater surprise arose from not being able to comprehend by what unheard-of means they should be able to behold so magnificent a palace, in a spot where, the day before, there were neither any materials brought, nor any foundations laid.

Aladdin's mother met with the most honourable reception, and was introduced by the chief of the eunuchs into the apartment of the princess Badroul Boudour. As soon as the latter perceived her, she ran and embraced her, and made her take a place upon her own sofa. And while her women were dressing her, and adorning her person with the most valuable of the jewels with which Aladdin had presented her, she entertained her with a most magnificent collation. The sultan, who wished to be as much as possible with the princess his daughter, before she left him to go to the palace of Aladdin, paid great honour and respect to his mother. She had very often seen the sultan in public, but he had never yet seen her without her veil, as she then was. And although she was of rather an advanced age, there were still to be observed some traces, from which it might be concluded she had in her youth been handsome. The sultan,

too, had always seen her very plainly, and indeed indifferently dressed, and he was therefore the more struck at finding her now as magnificent as the princess his daughter. He thence concluded, that Aladdin was equally prudent and wise in all things.

When the evening approached, the princess took leave of the sultan her father. Their parting was tender, and accompanied by tears. They embraced each other several times, without uttering a word: and the princess at last left her apartment, and proceeded towards her new residence with Aladdin's mother on her left hand, followed by a hundred female slaves, all magnificently dressed. All the bands of instruments which had been incessantly heard since the arrival of Aladdin's mother, united at once, and marched with them. These were followed by a hundred chiaous, and an equal number of black eunuchs in two rows, with their proper officers at their head. Four hundred young pages belonging to the sultan, who marched in two troops on each side, with flambeaux in their hands caused a great light. The brilliancy of these, joined to the illuminations in both palaces, made the loss of day unfelt.

In this order did the princess proceed, walking upon the carpet which was spread from Aladdin's palace to that of the sultan. And as she continued to advance, the musicians, who were at the head of the procession, went on, and mixed with those who were placed on the terrace of Aladdin's palace; thus forming a concert which, confused and extraordinary as it was, augmented the general joy, not only amongst those in the open square, but in the two palaces, in all the city, and even to a considerable distance around.

The princess at length arrived at the new palace, and Aladdin ran with every expression of joy to the entrance of the apartments appropriated to her, in order to welcome her. His mother had taken care to point out her son to the princess, in the midst of the officers and attendants who surrounded him; and when she perceived him, her joy at finding him so handsome and well made, was excessive. "Adorable princess," cried Aladdin, accosting her in the most respectful manner, "if I should have

the misfortune to have displeased you by the temerity with which I have aspired to possess so amiable a person, and the daughter of my sultan, I must confess, that it was to your beautiful eyes, and to your charms alone, that you must attribute it, and not to myself.”—“Prince, for it is thus that I must now call you,” replied the princess, “I obey the will of the sultan my father; and it is enough to have seen you to own that I obey him without reluctance.”

Aladdin was delighted at so satisfactory and charming an answer, and did not suffer the princess to remain long standing, after having walked so far, which she was not in the habit of doing. He took her by the hand, which he kissed with the greatest demonstrations of joy, and conducted her into a large saloon, illuminated by an immense number of tapers, where, through the attention of the Genie, there was a table spread with everything that was rare and excellent. The dishes were of massive gold, and filled with the most delicious viands. The vases, the basins, and the goblets, with which the sideboard was amply furnished, were also of gold, and of the most exquisite workmanship. The other ornaments which embellished the saloon, exactly corresponded with the richness of the other parts. The princess, enchanted at the sight of such an assemblage of riches in one place, said to Aladdin, “Nothing I thought, prince, in the whole world was more beautiful than the palace of the sultan my father; but the sight of this saloon alone tells me I was deceived.”—“My princess,” replied Aladdin, placing her at the table in the seat he had destined for her, “I am very sensible of your politeness, but at the same time know how to appropriate the compliment.”

The princess Badroul Boudour, Aladdin, and his mother sat down, and instantly a band of the most harmonious instruments, played upon by females of great beauty, to whose voices they formed an accompaniment, began a concert, which lasted till the repast was finished. The princess was so delighted with it, that she said she had never heard anything to equal it in the palace of her father. But she knew not that these musicians were fairies, chosen by the Genie, the slave of the lamp.

When the supper was concluded, and everything had been removed with the greatest diligence, a troop of dancers, of both sexes, took the place of the musicians. They performed dances of various figures, as was the custom of the country, and concluded by one executed by a male and female, who danced with the most surprising activity and agility, and each of them gave the other, in turn, an opportunity of showing all the grace and address they were master of. It was near midnight, when, according to the custom at that time observed in Cathay, Aladdin rose, and presented his hand to the princess Badroul Boudour, in order to dance together, and thus finish the ceremony of their nuptials. They both danced with so good a grace, that they were the admiration of all present. When it was over, Aladdin did not let the hand of the princess go, but they went into the chamber together, in which the nuptial bed had been prepared. The women of the princess attended to undress her, and put her to bed, while the attendants of Aladdin did the same, and then every one retired. In this manner did the ceremonies and rejoicing, on account of the marriage of Aladdin and the princess Badroul Boudour, conclude.

The next morning, when Aladdin awoke, his chamberlains presented themselves to dress him. They clothed him in quite a different habit, but one equally rich and magnificent, from that he wore on the day of his marriage. They then brought him one of the horses that were appropriated to his use. He mounted it, and rode to the palace of the sultan, surrounded by a large troop of slaves. The sultan received him with the same honours he had done before. He embraced him, and after having placed him on the throne, close by his side, ordered breakfast to be served up. "Sire," said Aladdin to the sultan, "I beseech your majesty to dispense with conferring this honour upon me to-day; I come for the express purpose of entreating you to go and partake of a repast in the palace of the princess, together with your grand vizier, and the nobles of your court." The sultan readily granted his request. He rose at the same instant, and as the distance was not great, he wished to go on foot. He proceeded therefore, in this manner, with Aladdin on his right hand,

and the grand vizier on his left, followed by the nobles, with the chious, and principal officers of his palace going before them.

The nearer the sultan came to the palace of Aladdin, the more was he struck with its beauty; yet this was but little to what he felt on entering. His expressions of surprise and pleasure continued in all the apartments through which he passed; but when they came to the saloon with twenty-four windows, to which Aladdin had requested them to ascend; when the sultan had seen its ornaments, and had, above all things, cast his eyes on the lattices, enriched with diamonds, rubies, and emeralds, all of the finest sort, and most appropriate size; and when Aladdin had made him observe, that the outside was equally rich and superb as the other, he was so much astonished, that he stood absolutely motionless. After remaining some time in that state, "Vizier," he at length said to that minister, who was near him, "is it possible, that there should be in my kingdom, and so near my own, so superb a palace, and yet that I should, till this moment, be ignorant of it?"—"Your majesty," replied the grand vizier, "may remember, that the day before yesterday, you gave Aladdin, whom you then acknowledged for your son-in-law, permission to build a palace, opposite to your own; on the same day, when the sun went down, not the smallest part of this palace was on this spot, and yesterday I had the honour to announce to your majesty, that the palace was built and finished."—"I remember it," replied the sultan, "but I never imagined, that this palace would be one of the wonders of the world. Where, throughout the universe, will you find the walls built with alternate layers of massive gold and silver, instead of stone or marble, and the windows having the lattices studded with diamonds, rubies, and emeralds? Never, in the whole world, has there been anything similar heard of."

The sultan wished to see more closely, and observe the beauty of the twenty-four lattices: when in reckoning them, he only found twenty-three that were equally rich, and he was therefore in the greatest astonishment, that the twenty-fourth should remain imperfect. "Vizier," said he, for

that minister made it a point not to leave him, "I am very much surprised, that so magnificent a saloon as this is, should remain unfinished in this particular."—"Sire," replied the grand vizier, "Aladdin apparently was pressed for time, and therefore was unable to finish this window like the rest. But it must readily be granted, that he has jewels fit for the purpose, and that it will be finished the first opportunity."

Aladdin, who had left the sultan to give some orders, came and joined them during this conversation. "My son," said the sultan, "this truly is a saloon, worthy the admiration of all the world. There is, however, one thing I am astonished at; and that is to observe this lattice unfinished. Is it through forgetfulness or neglect," added he, "or because the workmen have not had time to put the finishing stroke to such a beautiful specimen of architecture?"—"Sire," answered Aladdin, "it is not for any of these reasons, that this lattice remains in the state your majesty now sees it. It has been done on purpose: and it was by my orders, that the workmen have not touched it. I wish that your majesty should have the glory of finishing this saloon and palace at the same time. And I entreat you to think well of my intention, that I may ever remember the favour I have thus received from you."—"If you have done it with that view," replied the sultan, "I take it in good part; I will go this instant and give the necessary orders about it." In fact, he ordered the jewellers, who were best furnished with precious stones, and the most skilful goldsmiths in his capital, to be sent for.

When the sultan came down from the saloon, Aladdin conducted him into that, where he had entertained the princess Badroul Boudour on the evening of their nuptials. The princess herself entered the moment after, and received the sultan, her father, in such a manner as made it very evident she was quite satisfied with her marriage. In this saloon there were two tables set out with the most delicious viands, all served up in services of gold. The sultan sat down at the first, and ate with his daughter, Aladdin, and the grand vizier. All the nobles of the court were regaled at the second, which was of great length. The repast highly pleased the

sultan's taste ; and he confessed that he had never partaken of anything more excellent. He said the same of the wine, which was in fact very delicious. But what excited his admiration most of all, were four large recesses or sideboards, furnished and set out with a profusion of flagons, vases, cups of solid gold, enriched throughout with precious stones. He was also delighted with the different bands of music, placed in different parts of the saloon, while the trumpets, accompanied by tymbals and drums, were heard at a distance, at proper intervals joining with the music within.

When the sultan rose from the table, he was informed that the jewellers and goldsmiths whom he had ordered to be sent for were come. He then went up to the saloon with twenty-four windows: and, when there, he pointed out to the jewellers and goldsmiths who followed him, the window which was imperfect. "I have ordered you to come here," said the sultan, "to finish this window, and make it quite perfect like the rest. Examine them ; and lose no time in completing it."

The jewellers and goldsmiths examined all the twenty-three lattices with great attention ; and after having consulted together about what they could each contribute towards its completion, they presented themselves to the sultan, and the jeweller in ordinary to the palace thus addressed him ; "We are ready, sire, to employ all our care and diligence to obey your majesty ; but, amongst all our profession, we have not jewels, either sufficiently valuable, or numerous, to complete so great a work."—"I have, then," cried the sultan, "and more than you want. Come to my palace, I will show you them, and you shall choose which you like best."

When the sultan had got back to his palace, he made them bring to the jewellers all his jewels ; and they took a great quantity of them, particularly of those which had been presented by Aladdin. They used up all these, without appearing to have made much progress. They went back for more several different times, and in the course of more than a month they had not finished more than half their work. They used all

the sultan's jewels, with as many of the grand vizier's as he could spare, and with all these they could not do more than finish half the window.

Aladdin was well aware, that all the sultan's endeavours to make the lattice of this window like the others were vain, and that he would never arrive at that honour; he went up therefore to the workmen, and not only made them stop working, but even undo all they had yet finished, and carry back all the jewels to the sultan and the grand vizier.

All the work, which the jewellers had been six weeks in performing, was destroyed in a few hours. They then went away, and left Aladdin alone in the saloon. He took out the lamp, which he had with him, and rubbed it. The Genie instantly appeared. "Genie," said Aladdin to him, "I ordered you to leave one of the twenty-four lattices of this saloon imperfect, and you obeyed me. I now inform you, I wish it to be made like the rest. The Genie disappeared, and Aladdin went out of the saloon. He entered it again in a few moments, and found the lattice as he wished, and similar to the others.

In the meantime the jewellers and goldsmiths arrived at the palace, and were introduced and presented to the sultan, in his own apartment. The first jeweller then produced the precious stones he had brought with him, and said in the name of the rest: "Your majesty, sire, knows for what length of time, and how diligently we have worked, in order to finish the business your majesty employed us upon. It was already very far advanced, when Aladdin obliged us not only to leave off, but even to destroy what we had already done, and to bring back these jewels as well as those that belonged to the grand vizier." The sultan then asked them whether Aladdin had given them any reason; and when they told the sultan that he had said nothing on the subject, the former immediately ordered his horse to be brought. He mounted as soon as it came, and went without any other attendants than those who happened to be about his person, who accompanied him on foot. When he arrived at Aladdin's palace, he dismounted at the foot of the flight of stairs that led to the saloon with twenty-four windows. He immediately went up, without

letting Aladdin know of his arrival; but the latter happened luckily to be in the saloon; and had barely time to receive the sultan at the door.

The sultan, without giving Aladdin time to chide him for not sending word of his intention to pay him a visit, and thus seeming deficient in the respect he owed him, said: "I am come, my son, to ask the reason why you wished to leave this very magnificent and singular saloon in an unfinished state."

Aladdin dissembled the true reason, which was, that the sultan was not sufficiently rich in jewels to go to so great an expense. But to let him see how the palace itself surpassed not only his, but also every other palace in the whole world, since he was unable to finish even a very small part of it, he replied. "It is true, sire, that your majesty did behold this saloon unfinished; but I entreat you to examine, if, at this moment, there be anything wanting?"

The sultan immediately went to the window where he had observed the lattice imperfect; but when he saw that it was like the rest, he thought he was mistaken. He not only examined the window on each side of it, but looked at them all, one after the other; and when he was convinced that the lattice, upon which his people had so long employed themselves, and had cost the jewellers and goldsmiths so many days, was finished in such an instant, he embraced Aladdin, and kissed him between his eyes. "My dear son," said he, filled with astonishment, "what a man are you, who can do such wonderful things, and almost, as it were, instantaneously. There is not your equal in the world; and the more I know you, the more I find to admire in you."

Aladdin received the sultan's praises with great modesty, and replied to them in these terms: "It is, sire, my greatest glory to deserve the kindness and approbation of your majesty, and I can assure you that I will never neglect anything that will tend to make me still more worthy of your good opinion."

The sultan returned to his palace in the same way he came, and would not permit Aladdin to accompany him. When he got back, he found the

grand vizier waiting his arrival. Still full of admiration at the wonder to which he had been witness, the sultan related everything to him in such terms, that the vizier did not doubt for a moment that the matter was exactly as the sultan told it. But this still more confirmed that minister in the belief, which he already entertained, that the palace of Aladdin was built by enchantment; which opinion he had expressed to the sultan on the very morning that the palace was first seen. He again wished to repeat the same sentiments. "Vizier," said the sultan, suddenly interrupting him, "you have before said the same thing; but I very plainly perceive you have not forgotten my daughter's marriage with your son."

The grand vizier clearly saw that the sultan was prejudiced; he did not therefore wish to enter into any dispute with him, but suffered him to remain in his own opinion. Every morning, as soon as he rose, the sultan did not fail to go regularly to the apartment whence he could see the palace of Aladdin; and indeed he often went during the day to contemplate and admire it.

Aladdin himself in the meantime did not remain shut up in his palace, but took care to go through different parts of the city at least once every week: sometimes to attend prayers at various mosques: at others to visit the grand vizier, who regularly came on stated days to pay his pretended court; and sometimes he honoured with his presence the houses of the principal nobles whom he frequently entertained at his own palace. Every time he went out, he ordered two of the slaves who attended him as he rode, to throw handfuls of gold in the streets and public places through which he passed, and where the people always collected in crowds to see him. Besides this, a poor person never presented himself before the gate of his palace but went away well satisfied with the liberality he experienced.

Aladdin also so arranged his different occupations, that there was not a week in which he did not once, at least, take the diversion of the chase; sometimes hunting in the neighbourhood of the city, and at others going to a greater distance; and he gave proofs of the same liberality in

the roads and villages through which he passed. This generous disposition made the people load him with blessings; and it became the common custom to swear by his head. In short, without giving the least cause of displeasure to the sultan, to whom he very regularly paid his court, it may be asserted, that Aladdin had attracted by the affability of his manners, and the liberality of his conduct, the regard and affection of every one; and that, generally speaking, he was even more beloved than the sultan himself. To all these good qualities he joined a great degree of valour, and an ardent zeal for the good of the state, for which he cannot be too much praised. He had also an opportunity of giving the strongest proofs of it in a revolt, that took place on the confines of the kingdom. He no sooner became apprised that the sultan meant to levy an army to quell it, than he requested to have the command of it. This he had no difficulty in obtaining. He instantly put himself at its head, marched against the rebels, and conducted the whole expedition with so much judgment and activity, that the sultan heard of their defeat, punishment, and dispersion, quite as soon as of the arrival of the army at its point of destination. This action, which made his name celebrated throughout the whole extent of the empire, did not in the least alter his disposition. He returned victorious, but he returned possessed of as much affability and modesty as ever.

Many years passed, and Aladdin continued to conduct himself in the way we have described, when the African magician, who had procured for him, but without intending it, the means by which he was raised to so exalted a situation, frequently thought of him while he was in Africa, where he had returned. Although he was well persuaded that Aladdin had pined out a miserable existence in the subterraneous cavern where he had left him, he nevertheless thought he might as well learn the precise state of his end. As he had a complete knowledge of the science of geomancy, he took out of a drawer a sort of square covered box, such as he used when he made any observations in this science. He then sat down on the sofa, and placed the square instrument before him. He un-

covered it, and after making the sand, with which it was filled, quite smooth and even, with the view of discovering whether Aladdin died in the subterraneous cave, he arranged the points, drew the figures, and formed his horoscope. When he examined it, in-order to form his judgment, instead of finding Aladdin dead in the cave, he discovered that he had got out of it, that he lived in the greatest splendour, was immensely rich, highly respected and honoured, and was the husband of a princess.

No sooner had the African magician learnt by his diabolical art, that Aladdin was in the enjoyment of these honours, than the blood rushed into his face. "This miserable son of a tailor," he exclaimed in a rage, "has discovered the secret and virtues of the lamp. I thought his death certain; and now he enjoys the fruits of my long and laborious exertions. I will either prevent his enjoying them long, or perish in the attempt." He did not deliberate a long time, as to the method he should pursue. Early the next morning, he mounted a horse from Barbary, which he had in his stable, and began his journey. Travelling from city to city, and from province to province, without stopping anywhere longer than was necessary to rest his horse, he at last arrived in Cathay, and very soon reached the capital where the sultan lived, whose daughter Aladdin had married. He alighted at a public khan, where he ordered an apartment for himself. He remained there the rest of the day and following night, in order to recover from the fatigue of his journey.

The first thing the African magician did, the next morning, was to inquire what was the general opinion that was formed of Aladdin; and how the people spoke of him. In walking about the city, he went into the most frequented and best known place, where people of the greatest consequence and distinction assembled to drink a warm liquor, of a particular kind, which he recollected to have done when he was there before. He had no sooner taken his place, than they poured some out into a cup, and presented it to him. As he took it, he heard, as he was listening to what was said on every side, some person speaking of Aladdin's palace. When he had finished his cup, he approached those who were conversing

on this subject, and taking his opportunity, he inquired what there was in particular about this palace, of which they spoke so highly. "Where do you come from?" said one of those to whom he addressed himself. "You must surely be but lately arrived in this city, if you have not seen, or even heard of the palace of prince Aladdin." It was thus that Aladdin, since his union with the princess Badroul Boudour, was always called. "I do not say," continued the same person, "that it is one of the wonders of the world, but that it is the only wonder in the world. Nothing has ever been seen so rich, so grand, or so magnificent. You must have come from a great distance, since you seem never even to have heard of it. In fact, it ought to be spoken of everywhere, since it has been erected. But see it, and you will then know, if I have said anything but the truth."—"Pardon my ignorance, I beg of you," replied the African magician; "I arrived here only yesterday, and I have come from such a distance, even from the furthest part of Africa, that the fame of it had not reached that spot, when I left it. And, as it was a business of great importance that brought me, and required the utmost haste, I had no other view during my journey, than to get to the end of it as soon as possible, without stopping anywhere, or acquiring any information, as I came along: I was, therefore, quite ignorant of what you have been telling me. I shall not, however, fail to go and see it. My impatience indeed is so great, that I would this moment go and satisfy my curiosity, if you would do me the favour to show me the way."

The person to whom the African magician addressed himself, took a pleasure in pointing out to him the way he must go in order to see Aladdin's palace, and the latter immediately sat out. When he arrived, and had accurately examined the palace on all sides, he had not the least doubt, but that Aladdin had availed himself of the power of the lamp in building it. Without, therefore, at all thinking of the inability of Aladdin, the son of a tailor, he well knew it was in the power of the Genii, who were the slaves of the lamp, to produce such wonders, the acquisition of which had so narrowly escaped him. Stung to the very soul by the

happiness and greatness of Aladdin, between whom and the sultan there seemed not the shadow of a difference, he returned to his khan.

The great thing to discover was, the particular situation of the lamp, and whether Aladdin carried it about with him, or where he kept it; and this discovery he was able to make by a certain operation in geomancy. As soon, therefore, as he got back to his lodging, he took his square box and his sand, which he always carried with him, wherever he went. Having completed the operation, he found that the lamp was in Aladdin's palace; and his joy was so great, on knowing this, that he could hardly contain himself. "I shall get this lamp," he cried, "and I defy Aladdin to prevent my obtaining it, and compelling him to sink into the native obscurity and poverty from which he has taken so high a leap."

It happened most unfortunately for Aladdin, that he was absent upon a hunting expedition, that was to last eight days, and only three of them were yet elapsed. Of this the African magician got information in the following way. When he had finished the operation, which had afforded him so much joy, he went to see the master of the khan, under the pretence of conversing with him, and he had no difficulty in finding a proper subject. He told him, that he was just returned from the palace of Aladdin; and after giving him an exaggerated account of all the most remarkable and surprising things he saw, and such as generally attracted the attention of every one, "My curiosity," he added, "goes still further; and I shall not be satisfied till I have seen the master, to whom so wonderful a building belongs."—"That will not be at all a difficult matter," replied the keeper of the khan, "for hardly a day passes, that will not afford you an opportunity, when he is at home; but he has been gone these three days on a grand hunting party, which is to last at least eight."

The African magician did not want to know more; he took leave of the master of the khan, and returned to his own apartment. "This is the time for action," said he to himself, "nor must I let it escape." He then went to the shop of a person who made and sold lamps. "I want," said he to the master, "a dozen copper lamps; can you supply me with them?"

The man replied that he had not quite so many finished, but that if he would wait till the next day, he would have them ready for him at any time he wished. The magician agreed to wait; and desired him to take care and have them very well polished; and having first promised to give a good price for them, he returned to the khan.

The next morning, the African magician received his twelve lamps, and paid him the money he asked for them, without making him abate any part of it. He put them into a basket, which he had provided for the express purpose, and went with this on his arms towards Aladdin's palace, and when he was near it, he began to cry with a loud voice "Who will change old lamps for new?" As he kept going on, the children who were at play in the open square heard him; they ran and collected round him, hooting and shouting at him, as they took him for a fool or a madman. Every one who passed laughed at his folly, as they thought it. "That man," said they, "must surely have lost his senses to offer to change new lamps for old ones."

The African magician was not at all surprised at the shouts of the children, nor at anything that was said of him. In order, therefore, to dispose of his merchandise, he continued to cry, "Who will change old lamps for new?" He repeated this so often, while he walked backwards and forwards on all sides of the palace, that at last the princess Badroul Boudour, who was in the saloon with twenty-four windows, heard his voice: but as she could not distinguish what he said, on account of the shouting of the children who followed him, and whose number increased every instant, she sent one of her female slaves, who went close to him, in order to understand what was the reason of all the noise and bustle.

It was not long before the female slave returned, and entered the saloon laughing very heartily; indeed, so much so, that the princess herself, in looking at her, could not help laughing also. "Well, silly one," said the princess, "why do you not tell me what it is you are laughing at?"—"Princess," replied the slave, still laughing, "who can possibly help laughing, at seeing that fool with a basket on his arm full of beautiful new

lamps, which he does not wish to sell, but exchange for old ones. It is the crowd of children who surround him that make all the noise we hear, in mocking him."

Hearing this account, another of the female slaves said, "Now you speak of old lamps, I know not whether the princess has taken notice of one that lies upon the cornice; whoever it belongs to, he will not be very much displeased in finding a new one instead of that old one. If the princess will give me leave, she may have the pleasure of trying whether this fellow is fool enough to give a new lamp for an old one, without asking anything for the exchange."

The lamp of which the slave spoke was the identical wonderful lamp which had been the cause of Aladdin's great success and happiness; and he had himself placed it upon the cornice, before he went to the chase, from the fear of losing it. It was the usual precaution which he took every time he hunted. But neither the female slaves, the eunuchs, nor the princess herself had paid the least attention to it, during his absence, till this moment. Except when he hunted, Aladdin always carried it about him. His precaution, it may be said, was certainly very proper, but he should at least have locked the lamp up. That is all very true; but every one is liable to similar neglects, and always will be liable to them.

The princess, who was ignorant of the value of this lamp, and that Aladdin, not to say herself, was so much interested in its preservation, consented to the joke, and ordered a eunuch to go and get it exchanged. The eunuch obeyed: he went down from the saloon, and no sooner came out of the palace gate than he perceived the African magician. He immediately called to him; and when he came, he showed him the old lamp, and said, "Give me a new lamp for this."

The magician did not doubt but that this was the lamp he was seeking, because he thought there would not of course be any other lamp in Aladdin's palace, where everything that could be was of gold or silver. He eagerly took the lamp from the eunuch, and after having thrust it as far as he could into his bosom, he presented his basket, and bid him take





which he liked best. The eunuch chose one, and leaving the magician, he carried the new lamp to the princess. This change had no sooner taken place, than the children made the whole square resound with their noise in ridiculing and mocking, as they thought, the folly of the magician.

The African magician let them shout as much as they pleased; but without staying any longer near Aladdin's palace, he insensibly went to a distance, ceased his noise, and no longer invited people to change old lamps for new. He wished for no other than what he had got. His silence, therefore, soon induced the children to go no further with him.

As soon as he was out of the square between the two palaces, he went along the most unfrequented streets; and as he had no further occasion either for the remainder of his lamps, or his basket, he set them both down in the middle of a street, where he thought no one would see him. He then turned down another street, and made all the haste he could to get to one of the gates of the city. As he continued his walk through the suburb, which was very extensive, he bought some provisions before he left it. And when he was in the open country, he turned down a by-road, where there was not a probability of seeing any person; and here he remained till he thought a good opportunity occurred to execute the design he had in coming there. He did not regret the horse he left at the khan where he lodged; but thought himself well recompensed by the treasure he had acquired.

The African magician passed the remainder of the day in the same spot, and staid also until the night was far advanced. He then drew the lamp out of his bosom and rubbed it. The Genie instantly obeyed the summons. "What do you wish?" cried the Genie, "I am ready to obey you, as your slave, and the slave of those who have the lamp in their hands, I, and the other slaves of the lamp."—"I command you," replied the African magician, "instantly to take the palace, which you and the other slaves of the lamp have erected in this city, exactly as it is, with everything in it, both dead and alive, and transport it, with me at the same

time, into the furthest part of Africa." Without making any answer, the Genie, assisted by the other slaves of the lamp, took both him and the whole palace, and transported it, in a very short time, to the spot he had pointed out.

It is now necessary to leave the African magician, the princess Badroul Boudour, and the palace in Africa, and take notice of the sultan's surprise.

The sultan no sooner rose the next morning, than he did not fail, as usual, to go to the cabinet and look out, that he might have the pleasure of contemplating and admiring Aladdin's palace. He cast his eyes towards the side where he was accustomed to see this palace, but discovered only an open space, such as it was before it had been built. He thought he must be deceived; he rubbed his eyes, but still he could see nothing more than at first, though the air was so serene, the sky so clear, and the sun so near rising, that every object was distinct and plain. He looked on both sides, and out of both windows, but could not perceive what he had been accustomed to. His astonishment was so great that he remained for some time in the same place, with his eyes turned to the spot where the palace had stood, but where he could no longer see it, endeavouring to comprehend, what was beyond his power; that is, how so large and so visible a palace as that of Aladdin's, which he had constantly seen every day, since he had given permission to have it erected, and even so lately as the day before, should so suddenly and completely vanish, that not the smallest vestige remained. "I cannot be deceived," he said to himself, "it was in this very place that I beheld it. If it had fallen down, the materials at least would have appeared; and if the earth had swallowed it, we should have perceived some marks of it." In whatever way this had come to pass, and however satisfied he was that the palace was no longer there, he nevertheless waited some time longer, to see if in reality he was not deceived. He at length retired, after looking once more behind him, as he left the place. He returned to his apartment, and ordered his grand vizier to be instantly sent for. In the meantime,

he sat down ; his mind agitated with so many different thoughts, he knew not what part to take.

The grand vizier did not make the sultan wait long. He came in so much haste, that neither he nor his attendants in the least observed, as they passed, that the palace of Aladdin was no longer in the same place. Even the porters, when they opened the gates, did not perceive the difference.

“Sire,” said the grand vizier, the moment he entered, “the eagerness and haste, with which your majesty has sent for me, leads me to suppose that something very extraordinary has happened, since your majesty is not ignorant that this is the day when the council meets, and that I should, therefore, of course, have been here on my duty in a very short time.”—“What has happened is indeed very extraordinary, as you have said ; and you will soon agree it is so. Tell me, where is Aladdin’s palace?”—“I have just now passed it, sire,” replied the vizier, with the utmost surprise ; “and it seemed to me to be in the same spot. A building, so solid as that is, cannot easily change its situation.”—“Go into my cabinet,” answered the sultan, “and come and tell me if you can see it.”

The grand vizier went as he was ordered, and the very same thing happened to him as to the sultan. When he was quite sure that the palace of Aladdin did not stand in the place where it was, and that not the smallest part of it seemed to remain, he went back to see the sultan. “Well,” demanded the latter, “have you seen Aladdin’s palace?”—“Your majesty, sire, may remember,” replied the grand vizier, “that I had the honour to tell you, that this palace, which was so much and so deservedly admired for its beauty and immense riches, was the work of magic ; but your majesty did not then pay any attention to what I said.”

The sultan, who could not deny the former representations of the grand vizier, was in the greater rage, because he was also unable to disavow his own incredulity. “Where is this imposter?” he exclaimed, “this wretch, that I may strike off his head?”—“It is some days,” answered the grand vizier, “since he came to take leave of your majesty ;

we must send to him, to inquire about his palace: he cannot be ignorant where it is.”—“This would be to treat him with too great indulgence,” exclaimed the monarch; “go, and order thirty of my horsemen to bring him before me in chains.” The grand vizier instantly gave the orders, and instructed their officer how they might prevent his escape and take him. They set out, and met Aladdin, who was returning from the chase, about five or six leagues from the city. The officer, when he first accosted him, said, that the sultan was so impatient to see him again, that he had sent them to inform him of it, and to accompany him on his return.

Aladdin had not the least suspicion of the true cause that had brought this detachment of the sultan’s guard. He continued hunting on his way home; but when he was within half a league of the city, the detachment surrounded him, and the officer then said, “Prince Aladdin, it is with the greatest regret that I must inform you of the orders, we have received from the sultan, to arrest you, and conduct you like a state criminal. We entreat you not to take it ill in us, that we do our duty, but on the contrary, that you will pardon us.” This declaration astonished Aladdin to the greatest degree. He felt himself innocent; and asked the officer if he knew of what crime he was accused; but he replied that neither he nor his men were acquainted with it.

As Aladdin perceived that his own attendants were much inferior to the detachment, and even that they went to some distance, he dismounted, and said to the officer, “Here I am, execute whatever orders you have received. I must, however, aver that I am guilty of no crime, either towards the person of the sultan, or the state.” They immediately put a large and long chain about his neck, which they then bound round his body, so that he had not the use of his arms. When the officer had put himself at the head of the troop, one of the horsemen took hold of the end of the chain, and going on behind the officer, he led Aladdin, who was obliged to follow on foot; and in this state he was conducted through the city.

When the guards entered the suburbs, the first person who saw

Aladdin conducted in this way, like a state criminal, did not doubt but that he was going to lose his head. As he was generally beloved, some seized a sabre, others whatever arms they could, and those who had none took up stones, and in this manner followed the guards. Some of those who were in the rear wheeled about, as if they wished to disperse them; but the people increased so fast, that the guards thought it better to dissemble, well satisfied if they could conduct Aladdin safe to the palace, without his being rescued. In order to succeed the better, they took great care, as the streets happened to be more or less wide, to occupy the whole space, sometimes extending, and at others compressing themselves. In this manner they arrived in the open square before the palace, where they all formed into one line, and faced about towards the armed multitude, while the officer and guard, who led Aladdin, entered the palace, and the porters shut the gates to prevent any one from entering.

Aladdin was conducted before the sultan, who waited for him, accompanied by the grand vizier, in a balcony. And he no sooner saw him, than he commanded the executioner, who was already present by his orders, to strike off his head, as he wished not to hear a word, or any explanation whatever.

When the executioner had seized Aladdin, he took off the chain that was round his neck and body, and after laying down on the ground a large piece of leather, stained with the blood of the many criminals he had executed, he desired him to place himself on his knees, and then tied a bandage over his eyes. Having drawn his sabre, he was about to give the fatal stroke, only making the three usual flourishes in the air, and waiting for the sultan's signal to separate Aladdin's head from his body.

At this very instant the grand vizier perceived, that the populace, which had forced the guards, and filled the square, were in fact scaling the walls of the palace in many places, and even began to pull them down in order to open a passage. Before therefore the sultan could give the signal, he said to him, "I beseech your majesty to think maturely of what

you are going to do ; you will run the risk, sire, of having your palace forced ; and if this misfortune should happen, the event cannot but be dreadful.”—“My palace forced!” replied the sultan ; “who can dare attempt it?”—“If your majesty, sire, will cast your eyes towards the walls in that part, you will acknowledge the truth of what I say.”

When the sultan saw such eager and violent commotions, his fear was very great. He instantly ordered the executioner to put up his sabre, to take the bandage off Aladdin’s eyes, and set him at liberty. He also commanded an officer to proclaim that he pardoned Aladdin, and that every one might retire.

As all those who had mounted on the walls of the palace were witnesses of what passed, they gave over their design, and almost directly got down : and, highly delighted at having thus been the means of saving the life of one whom they really loved, they instantly published this news to those who were near them, whence it spread through all the populace who were in the neighbourhood of the palace. The officers also, who ascended the terraced roof to proclaim the same thing, completed its publicity. The justice the sultan had thus rendered Aladdin by pardoning him, disarmed the populace, quieted the tumult, and every one by degrees returned home.

When Aladdin found himself at liberty, he lifted up his head towards the balcony, and perceiving the sultan, he raised his voice, and addressed him in the most pathetic manner. “I entreat your majesty,” he said, “to add a new favour to the pardon you have just granted me ; and that is to inform me of my crime.”—“What thy crime is, perfidious wretch !” replied the sultan, “dost thou not know it ? Come up here, and I will show thee.”

Aladdin ascended ; and when he presented himself, “Follow me,” said the sultan, walking on before, without taking any other notice of him. He led the way to the cabinet that opened towards the place where Aladdin’s palace stood. When they came to the door, “Go in,” said the sultan, “you ought to know where your own palace is. Look on all

sides, and tell me what is become of it." Aladdin looked, but saw nothing. He perceived the space which his palace did occupy; but as he could not conceive how it should have disappeared, this extraordinary and wonderful event so confused and astonished him, that he could not answer the sultan a single word. "Tell me," said the latter, impatient at his silence, "where is your palace, and what is become of my daughter?"—"Sire," replied Aladdin, at last breaking silence, "I plainly see, and must own, that the palace which I built is no longer in the place where it was. I see it has disappeared; but I can assure your majesty that I have no concern whatever in this event."

"I care not what is become of your palace; that gives me no pain," replied the sultan. "I esteem my daughter a million times beyond it; unless therefore you discover and bring her again to me, no consideration shall yet prevent my taking off your head."—"Sire," said Aladdin, "I entreat your majesty to grant me forty days to make the most diligent inquiries; and if I do not, during this period, succeed in my search, I give you my word that I will lay my head at the foot of your throne, that you may dispose of me according to your pleasure."—"I grant your request," answered the sultan, "but do not think to abuse my favour, and endeavour to escape my resentment. In whatever part of the world you are, I will take care to discover you."

Aladdin then left the sultan's presence in the deepest humiliation, and in a state truly deserving of pity. He passed through the courts of the palace with downcast eyes, not even daring to look about him, so great was his confusion; and the principal officers of the court, not one of whom had he ever disobliged, instead of coming to console him, or offer him a retreat at their houses, turned their backs upon him, both that they might not be supposed to see him, nor he be able to recognise them. But even if they had approached him in order to console him, or offer him an asylum, they themselves would not have known him: he did not even know himself. His mind seemed deranged, of which he gave evident proofs when he was out of the palace; for without thinking of what he

did, he demanded at every door, and of all he met, if they had seen his palace, or could give him any intelligence of it.

These questions made every one think, that Aladdin had lost his senses. Some even laughed at him; but the more serious, and especially all those who had been on friendly terms, or ever had any business with him, most sincerely compassionated him. He remained three days in the city, walking through every part, eating only what was given him in charity, without being able to form any resolution.

At length, as Aladdin could not in his wretched state remain any longer in the city, where he had hitherto lived in such splendour, he departed towards the country. He soon turned out of the high road, and after walking over a great deal of ground in the most dreadful state of mind, he arrived towards the close of day on the borders of a river. He now gave himself up entirely to despair. "Whither shall I go to seek my palace?" he exclaimed to himself. "In what country, in what part of the world, shall I find either that, or my dear princess, whom the sultan demands of me? Never shall I be able to succeed! It is much better then, that I at once free myself from all my labours, which must end in nothing, and all the cutting sensations that distract me." He was then going to throw himself into the river, according to his resolution; but being a good mussulman, and faithful to his religion, he thought he ought not to do it, without first repeating his prayers. In order to perform this ceremony, he went close to the bank to wash his face and hands, as was the custom of his country; but as this spot was rather steep, and the ground moist from the water that had washed against it, he slipped down and would have fallen into the river, if he had not been stopped by a piece of stone, or rock, that projected about two feet from the surface. Happy was it for him, too, that he still had with him the ring which the African magician had put upon his finger, when he made him go down into the subterraneous cavern, to bring away the precious lamp, which was so near remaining buried with him. In holding against the piece of rock, he rubbed the ring so strongly, that the same Genie instantly ap-





peared, whom he had before seen in the subterraneous cavern. "What do you wish?" cried the Genie: "I am ready to obey you as your slave, and as the slave of him who has that ring on his finger; I and the other slaves of the ring."

Aladdin was most agreeably surprised by a sight he so little expected in the despair he was in; and directly replied, "Save my life, Genie, a second time, by informing me where the palace is, which I have built, or in procuring it to be again placed where it was."—"What you require of me," answered the Genie, "is beyond my ability: I am only the slave of the ring; you must address yourself to the slave of the lamp."—"If that be the case, then," added Aladdin, "at least transport me to the spot where my palace is, let it be in what part of the world it will; and place me under the window of the princess Badroul Boudour." He had barely said this, before the Genie transported him to Africa, near a large city, and in the midst of a large meadow, in which the palace stood, and set him down directly under the windows of the apartment of the princess, and there left him. All this was the work of an instant.

Notwithstanding the obscurity of the night, Aladdin very readily recognised both his own palace and the apartment of the princess; but as the night was far advanced, and everything in the palace was quiet, he retired to one side, and seated himself at the foot of a tree. Full of hopes, and reflecting on the good fortune which chance alone had procured him, he here felt himself in a much more tranquil state, than since he had been arrested by the sultan's order, brought before him, and again delivered from the danger of losing his head. He amused himself for some time with these agreeable thoughts; but as he had for five or six days enjoyed hardly any rest, he could not prevent himself being overcome by sleep, and he resigned himself to its influence in the spot where he was.

The next morning, as soon as the sun began to appear, Aladdin was most agreeably awakened by the notes of the birds, which had perched for the night, not only upon the tree under which he lay, but also among the other thick trees in the garden of his palace. He cast his eyes upon

this beautiful building, and felt an inexpressible joy at the thoughts of being again master of it, and once more possessing his dear princess. He got up, and approached the apartment of the princess. He walked for some time under the window, waiting till she rose, in hopes that she might observe him. While in expectation of this, he considered within himself what could have been the cause of his misfortune; and after meditating some time, he entertained no doubt but that it arose from his having left his lamp. He accused himself of negligence and carelessness in having suffered the lamp to be out of his possession a single moment. He was, however, the most embarrassed in discovering who could be so jealous of his happiness. He would at once have comprehended it, if he had known that both he and his palace were in Africa: but the Genie, who was the slave of the ring, had not informed him. The name alone of Africa would have brought his declared enemy, the magician, to his recollection.

The princess Badroul Boudour rose this morning much earlier than she had yet done, since she had been transported into Africa by the artifice of the magician, whose sight she was compelled to endure once every day, as he was master of the palace: but she constantly treated him so ill, that he had never yet had the boldness to sleep there. When she was dressed, one of her women, looking through the lattice, perceived Aladdin, and instantly ran and informed her mistress. The princess, who could scarcely believe this news, immediately went to the window, and saw him herself. She opened the lattice; the noise of which made Aladdin raise his head. He instantly recognised her, and saluted her in a manner highly expressive of his joy. "Lose not a moment," cried the princess, "they are gone to open the secret door, ascend this instant." She then shut the lattice.

This secret door was directly below the apartment of the princess. It was open, and Aladdin entered her apartment. It is impossible to express the joy they both felt in again seeing each other, after having concluded that their separation was eternal. They embraced each other with tears

of joy many times, and gave all imaginable proofs of the tenderest affection, after so cruel and so unforeseen a separation. They at length sat down. "Before you mention anything else, my princess," said Aladdin, "tell me, in the name of God, as well for your own sake, and for that of the sultan, your ever respected father, as for mine, what has become of that old lamp which I placed upon the cornice of the saloon with twenty-four windows before I went on the hunting party?" "Ah! my dear husband," replied the princess, "I doubt very much whether our mutual misfortunes have not arisen from that lamp: and what the more distresses me is, that I am myself the cause of it."—"Do not, princess," resumed Aladdin, "attribute the matter to yourself; I only am to blame; for I ought to have been more careful in its preservation. But let us now only think of repairing that loss: and, for this purpose, inform me, I beg of you, of everything that has happened, and into whose hands this lamp has fallen."

The princess then related to Aladdin everything that had passed relative to the exchange of the old lamp for a new one, which she showed him; and how, on the following night, after having been sensible of the removal of the palace, she found herself the next morning in the unknown country, where she was now speaking to him; and that this country was Africa, a fact she had learned from the traitor, who by his magic art had transported her there.

"Princess," replied Aladdin, interrupting her, "by informing me that we are in Africa, you have at once unmasked the traitor. He is the most infamous of men. But this is neither a proper time nor place to enter into a detail of his crimes. I entreat you only to tell me what he has done with the lamp, and where he has put it."—"He constantly," rejoined the princess, "carries it carefully wrapped up in his bosom. I am sure of this, because he once took it out in my presence, showing it as a sort of trophy."

"Do not be offended, my princess," continued Aladdin, "at all the questions I put to you; they are of equal importance to us both. But to come at once to what most interests me; tell me, I conjure you, how you

have been treated by so infamous and perfidious a wretch.”—“Since I have been in this place,” answered the princess, “he has presented himself before me only once during the day; and I am persuaded that the little satisfaction he has derived from his visits, makes him repeat them less often. All that he has ever said to me, has only been for the purpose of persuading me to be faithless to you, and to take him for my husband; wishing to convince me, that I ought never to expect to see you again; that you are no longer alive; and that the sultan, my father, has ordered your head to be cut off. And to prove to me that you were an ungrateful wretch, he said that you owed all your good fortune to him, with a thousand other injurious expressions that I cannot repeat. And as he never had any other answer than my complaints and tears afforded him, he was obliged to retire with as little satisfaction as he came. I have nevertheless no doubt but that he means to suffer the most violent effects of my affliction to subside, with the hope and expectation that I shall change my mind; and if, in the end, I should persevere in my resistance, to make use of violent methods: but your presence, my dear husband, at once dissipates all my fears.”

“Princess,” interrupted Aladdin, “I trust you will not be deceived, as I think I have discovered the means of delivering you from our common enemy. For this purpose, however, I must go into the town; I will return about noon, and communicate to you the nature of my design, for you must yourself contribute towards its success. Let me, however, apprise you not to be astonished if you see me return in a different dress; and be sure you give orders, that I may not be obliged to wait at the private door, but be admitted the instant I knock.” The princess promised that somebody should be ready to open it on his arrival.

When Aladdin left the apartment by the same door he had entered, he looked about on all sides, and at last discovered a peasant, who was going into the country. As this peasant had got to some distance beyond the palace, Aladdin hastened to overtake him; and as soon as he joined him, he proposed to change clothes, and made him such an offer, that the

peasant readily agreed to it. This took place behind a small bush ; and when the exchange was completed, they separated, and Aladdin took the road that led to the town. When he got there, he turned down a street which led from the gate, and then getting into those streets which were most frequented, he came to that part where each street was occupied by a particular profession or trade. He went into that appropriated to druggists, and going to the shop which appeared the largest and best supplied, he asked the owner if he had a certain powder, the name of which he mentioned.

The merchant, who, from looking^s at Aladdin's dress, did not conceive that he had money enough to pay for it, replied, that he had it, but that it was very dear. Aladdin readily entered into the merchant's thoughts, and therefore took out his purse, and showing him the gold, desired to have half a drachm of the powder. The merchant weighed it, wrapped it up, and giving it to Aladdin, demanded one piece of gold for it. The latter immediately paid him, and without stopping in the town any longer than was necessary to take some nourishment, returned to the palace. He had no occasion to wait at the street door ; it was instantly opened, and he went up to the apartment of the princess Badroul Boudour. "The aversion, my princess," said Aladdin to her as soon as he came in, "which you have expressed for your ravisher, may probably occasion you some pain in complying with the instructions I am about to give you. But permit me, in the first place, to tell you that it is necessary for you to dissemble, and even to offer some violence to your own feelings, if you wish to be delivered from his persecution, and afford to the sultan, your father, and my sovereign, the satisfaction of again beholding you."

"If you will follow my advice," continued Aladdin, "you will this moment begin to adorn yourself in one of your most elegant dresses, and when the African magician shall come, make no difficulty in receiving him with all the affability you can assume, without appearing affected, or under any constraint ; in a kind of open manner, yet still with some remains of grief, which he may easily conceive will soon be entirely dissi-

pated. In your conversation with him give him to understand, that you are making the greatest efforts to forget me; and that he may be still more convinced of your sincerity, invite him even to sup with you, and tell him, that you are desirous of tasting some of the best wine this country can produce. On this, he will not fail to leave you, in order to procure some. While he is gone, do you go to the sideboard, which will, of course, be set out, and put into one of the cups, you usually drink out of, this powder; set the cup on one side, and tell one of your women to fill it, and bring it to you at a certain signal, which you must explain to her, warning her not to make any mistake. When the magician shall be returned, and you shall again have sat down to table, after having eaten and drunk as much as you think proper, make them bring you the particular goblet in which the powder was put, and then do you make an exchange with him. He will find the flavour of that you give him so excellent, he will not refuse it, but drink it up to the last drop. Scarcely shall he have emptied the cup, but you will see him fall backwards. If you should feel any repugnance at drinking out of his cup, you need only pretend to do so, and you can very easily manage this, for the effect of the powder will be so sudden, that he will not have time to pay any attention to what you do, or whether you drink or not."

When Aladdin had finished his instructions, the princess answered, "I must confess, that I shall violently shock my own feelings, in agreeing to make these advances to the magician, although I am aware they are absolutely necessary. But what cannot I resolve to undertake against such a cruel enemy? I will then do as you direct, since your happiness depends upon it, as well as mine." When these matters were all arranged with the princess, Aladdin took his leave, and passed the remainder of the day in the neighbourhood of the palace, and as the night came on, he approached the secret door.

The princess Badroul Boudour feeling herself inconsolable, not only at her separation from her dear husband Aladdin, whom, from the very first, she loved more through inclination than duty, but also at being sepa-

rated from the sultan her father, between whom and herself there was an equal degree of affection, had hitherto completely neglected her person from the very moment she knew of this distressful separation. She had even neglected the neatness and cleanliness, so becoming to persons of her sex, particularly since the first visit of the magician, and when she had learnt from her women, that he was the person who had exchanged the old lamp for a new one; after this infamous trick, therefore, she could not look upon him without horror. The opportunity, however, of taking that vengeance upon him he so justly deserved, so much sooner than she could possibly even hope to have the means of accomplishing it, made her resolve to satisfy Aladdin.

As soon, therefore, as he was gone, she went to her toilet, and made her woman dress her in the most becoming manner. She put on one of her richest habits, and that which she thought best adapted to the purpose. Her girdle was of gold, set with diamonds of the largest size, and the best chosen. She put on only a necklace of pearls, six of which on each side the centre one, which was the largest and most valuable, were so beautifully proportioned, that the proudest sultanas and greatest queens would have thought themselves happy, in possessing a necklace equal to the two smallest. Her bracelets, which were formed of diamonds and rubies mixed, admirably answered to the richness of her girdle and necklace.

When the princess was completely dressed, she consulted her mirror, and asked the opinion of her women upon her appearance; and finding she was not deficient in any of those charms that might flatter the foolish passion of the African magician, she seated herself upon the sofa, in expectation of his arrival.

The magician did not fail to make his appearance at the usual hour. As soon as the princess saw him come into the saloon with the twenty-four windows, where she was waiting to receive him, she got up in all the splendour of her beauty and charms. She pointed with her hand to the most honourable seat, and remained standing till he had reached it, that

she might sit down at the same time. This distinguished civility she had never before shown him.

The African magician, more dazzled by the lustre of her eyes, than from the brilliancy of the jewels she wore, was greatly struck. Her majestic air, the gracious manner she had put on, so opposite to the rebuffs he had hitherto met with from her, absolutely confused him. He at first wished to sit at the very end of the sofa; but as he saw that the princess declined taking her seat until he was seated where she wished, he at last obeyed.

No sooner was he in his place, than the princess, in order to free him from the embarrassment in which she saw he was, looked at him in such a manner as to make him suppose she no longer beheld him in an odious point of view as she had till now evinced, and then said to him: "You are doubtless astonished at seeing me appear to-day quite like a different person from what I have hitherto done; but you will no longer be surprised at it, when I tell you that I am naturally of a disposition so much the reverse of grief, melancholy, vexation, or distress, that I endeavour to drive them from me by every means in my power, as soon as the cause of them has been a short time over. I have reflected upon what you have said respecting the destiny of Aladdin, and from the disposition of the sultan, my father, which I well know, I am persuaded, like yourself, that the former could not possibly avoid the terrible effects of his rage. I concluded, therefore, that even if I were to weep and lament all the remainder of my life, that my tears would not revive him; it is then on this account that, after having paid him even to the tomb every respect and duty which my affection required, I thought I ought at length to search for the means of consoling myself. These are the motives which have produced the change you see. In order then to begin to drive away all sorrow, which I have now resolved to banish from my mind, and being persuaded that you will assist me in the endeavours, I have ordered a supper to be prepared; but as I have only some wine which is the produce of Cathay, and am now in Africa, I have a great desire to taste what is

made here, and I thought if there were any, that you would be most likely to have the best."

The African magician, who had conceived it impossible to have so soon, and so easily, acquired the good graces of the princess Badroul Boudour, did not fail to tell her, that he was unable sufficiently to express how sensible he was of her goodness; and to put an end to a conversation from which he would find it difficult to disengage himself if it continued any longer, he adverted to the wine of Africa, which she had mentioned, and told her, that among the many advantages which that country boasted of possessing, that of producing most excellent wine was the principal, particularly in the part where she then was; and that he had some seven years old that was not yet begun, and it was not saying too much, to aver, that it surpassed all others in the whole world. "If my princess," added he, "will permit me, I will go and bring two bottles, and will return in an instant."—"I should be sorry to give you that trouble," replied the princess, "it would be better surely to send some one."—"It is necessary for me to go myself," resumed the magician, "no one but myself has the key of the cellar; nor does any one else know the secret of opening it."—"The longer you are gone, the more impatient I shall be to see you again; remember that we sit down to table on your return."

Full of the ideas of his expected happiness, the African magician not only ran, but absolutely flew to fetch the wine, and was back almost instantly. The princess did not doubt but that he would make haste, and therefore threw the powder which Aladdin had given her, into a goblet, and set it aside against she should call for it. They then sat down opposite to each other, so that the magician's back was towards the side-board. The princess, helping him to what appeared the best, said to him, "If you have any inclination, I will give you some music; but as we are only by ourselves, I think that conversation will afford us much pleasure." The magician regarded this choice as a fresh mark of her favour.

After they had eaten for some little time, the princess asked for some

wine, and drank to the magician's health. "You are right, she cried, when she had drunk, "in praising your wine; I have never tasted any so delicious."—"Charming princess," replied he, holding the goblet they had given him in his hand, "my wine acquires a fresh flavour by the approbation you have bestowed upon it."—"Drink to my health," resumed the princess; "you must confess I understand it." He did as she ordered him; and in returning the goblet, he added, "I esteem myself very happy, princess, to have reserved this wine for so good an occasion: and I confess I have never in my whole life drunk any in so agreeable a manner."

When they had continued eating some time longer, and had taken three cups each, the princess, who had completely fascinated the African magician by her kind and obliging manners, at length gave the signal to her woman to have some wine, at the same time desiring her to bring a goblet full, and also to fill that of the magician, which they presented to him. When they each held their goblet in their hands, "I know not," said she to the African magician, "what is your custom, when those who are fond of each other drink together as we do. With us in Cathay, each person presents his own goblet to the other, and the lovers then drink to each other's health." At the same time she presented the goblet she held, and put out her other hand to receive his. The African magician hastened to make this change, with which he was the more delighted, as he looked upon this favour as the surest mark of having made an entire conquest of the heart of the princess; and this completed his happiness. "Princess," he exclaimed before he drank, and holding the goblet in his hand, "we Africans ought to become as much refined in the art of giving a zest to love by every delightful accompaniment, as the people of Cathay; by instructing me therefore in a lesson of which I am ignorant, I should learn how sensible I ought to be of the favour I receive. Never shall I forget, most amiable princess, that in drinking out of your goblet, I have regained that life, which your cruelty, had it continued, would most infallibly have destroyed."

The princess Badroul Boudour was almost worn out with this ridicu-



lous and troublesome discourse. "Drink," she cried, interrupting him, "you may then say what you please to me." At the same time she appeared to carry to her mouth the goblet she held, but barely suffered it to touch her lips, while the African magician did not leave a single drop. In hastening to finish the cup, he held his head quite back, and remained so long in that situation, that the princess, who kept the goblet to her lips, observed that his eyes were turned up, and he in fact fell upon his back, without the least struggle.

The princess had no occasion to order them to go and open the secret door, to admit Aladdin. Her women, who were stationed at different parts, gave the word one to the other from the saloon to the bottom of the staircase, so that the African magician had no sooner fallen backwards, than the door was opened.

Aladdin went up to the saloon, and as soon as he saw the African magician extended on the sofa, he stopped Badroul Boudour, who had risen to congratulate him on the joyful event. "My princess," he cried, "there is at this moment no time for rejoicing; do me the favour to retire to your apartment, and to suffer me to be alone, while I prepare for our return to Cathay as quickly as you went from it." In fact, the princess, her women, and the eunuchs, were no sooner out of the hall, than Aladdin shut the door; and then going up to the body of the African magician, which was lying lifeless on the sofa, he opened his vest, and took out the lamp, which was wrapped up exactly in the manner the princess had described. He took it out and rubbed it. The Genie instantly presented himself, and made the usual speech. "Genie," said Aladdin, "I have called you, to command you in the name of this lamp, your good mistress, immediately to take this palace, and transport it to the same spot in Cathay, whence it was brought here." The Genie, first showing by an inclination of his head that he would obey, vanished. The journey was in fact made, and only two slight shocks were perceptible; one, when the palace was taken up from the place where it stood in Africa, and the

other, when it was set down in Cathay, opposite to the sultan's palace : and this was all done in a very short space of time.

Aladdin then went down to the apartment of Badroul Boudour. "Our joy, my princess," exclaimed Aladdin, embracing her, "will be complete by to-morrow morning." As the princess had not finished her supper, and as Aladdin was much in want of food, she ordered them to bring the things from the saloon with twenty-four windows, where the supper had been served, and which had not yet been removed. The princess and Aladdin drank together, and found the old wine of the magician most excellent. They then, without saying a word of the pleasure of this meeting, which could not but be delightful, retired to their apartment.

Since the removal of Aladdin's palace, and the loss of the princess Badroul Boudour, his daughter, as he thought for ever, the sultan had been inconsolable. He slept neither night nor day ; and instead of avoiding everything that could increase his affliction, he on the contrary cherished every thought that was likely to add to it. Thus, instead of going only every morning to the cabinet to satisfy himself as it were only with the recollected sight of what he was in fact unable to perceive, he went several times during the day to renew his tears, and overwhelm himself in the most painful sensations, from the thoughts of never again seeing what had afforded him so much delight, and from the loss of what he esteemed the most of anything in the world. The sun had not yet risen, when the sultan entered this cabinet, as usual, on the very morning that Aladdin's palace had been brought back to its place. When he first came in, he was so much absorbed in his own feelings, and so penetrated with sorrow, that he threw his eyes over the accustomed spot in the most melancholy manner, with the expectation of beholding, as he thought, only a vacant space unoccupied by the palace. But when he first found the void filled up, he conjectured that it was only a mist. He then looked with greater attention, and could not at last doubt, but it was the palace of Aladdin which he saw. Chagrin and sorrow were succeeded by the most delightful sensations of joy. He hastened back to his apartment,

and instantly ordered them to saddle and bring him a horse. It was no sooner brought than he mounted it and set out, thinking he could not arrive soon enough at Aladdin's palace.

Aladdin, who had conjectured what might be the consequence, had risen at day-break; and as soon as he had dressed himself in one of his most magnificent robes, he went up to the saloon with twenty-four windows, from which he perceived the sultan as he was coming along. He then descended; and was exactly in time to receive him at the bottom of the grand staircase, and assist him in dismounting. "Aladdin," cried the sultan, "I cannot speak to you, till I have seen and embraced my daughter."

He then conducted the sultan to the apartment of the princess Badroul Boudour, whom Aladdin had informed, when he got up, that she was no longer in Africa, but in Cathay, at the capital of the sultan her father, and close to his palace. She had just finished dressing. The sultan eagerly embraced her, bathing her face with his tears, while the princess, on her part, showed the greatest marks of delight at again beholding him. For some time the sultan could not utter a syllable, so much was he affected at finding his daughter, after having lamented her loss as inevitable, while the princess shed tears of joy at the sight of him. "My dear daughter," exclaimed the sultan, at length recovering his speech, "I wish to believe, that the joy you feel at again seeing me, makes you appear so little changed as if not even an unpleasant circumstance had happened to you. I am sure, however, that you must have suffered a great deal. No one can have been suddenly transported as you have been, and with a whole palace at the same time, without the greatest alarm and most dreadful feelings. Relate to me, I beg of you, everything as it happened, and do not conceal the least circumstance."

The princess felt a pleasure in giving the sultan all the satisfaction he wished. "Sire," said she, "if I appear so little altered, I beg your majesty to consider that my expectations were raised so long ago as yesterday morning by the presence of my dear husband and liberator Aladdin, whom

I had till then regarded and lamented as for ever lost to me, and that the happiness I experienced in again embracing him, restored me nearly to my former self. Strictly speaking, my whole sorrow arose from finding myself torn from your majesty, and my dear husband, not only out of my affection for him, but from the anxiety I suffered for fear of the dreadful effects of your majesty's rage, to which I did not doubt that he would be exposed, however innocent he might be; and no one could be more so. I have suffered less from the insolence of my ravisher, who has continually held a conversation that gave me pain, but which I as often put an end to by the ascendancy I knew how to maintain over him. I was not also under more restraint than I am at present. Aladdin himself had not the least concern in my removal; I was alone the cause, although the innocent one."

In order to convince the sultan that she spoke the truth, she gave him a detailed account how the African magician disguised himself like a seller of lamps, and offered to change new ones for old, and of the joke she amused herself with in changing Aladdin's lamp, the important and secret qualities of which she was ignorant of; of the instant removal of the palace and herself in consequence of this exchange, and their being transported into Africa, with the magician himself, whom two of her women, and also the eunuch, who had made the exchange, recollected, when he had the audacity to come and present himself before her the first time after the success of his daring enterprise, and of the proposal he made to marry her. She then informed him of the persecution she continued to suffer until the arrival of Aladdin; of the measure they mutually took to get the lamp, which the magician constantly carried about him; in what manner they succeeded, particularly by her having the courage to dissemble her feelings, and invite him to sup with her; with everything that passed till she presented the goblet to him, in which she had privately put the powder Aladdin had given her. "With respect to what remains," added she, "I leave to Aladdin to inform you of it."

The latter had but little to add to this account. "When they opened

the private door," he said, "I immediately went up to the saloon with twenty-four windows, and saw the traitor lying dead on the sofa, from the strength of the powder. As it was not proper for the princess to remain there any longer, I requested her to go to her apartment with her women and eunuchs. When I was alone, after taking the lamp out of the magician's bosom, I made use of the same secret he had done to remove the palace and steal away the princess. I have brought the palace back to its place, and have had the happiness of restoring the princess to your majesty, as you commanded me. I have not deceived your majesty in this account; and if you will take the trouble to go up to the saloon, you will see the magician punished as he deserved."

In order to be the more fully convinced, the sultan rose and went up; and when he had seen the dead body of the magician, whose face was already become livid by the strength of the poison, he embraced Aladdin with the greatest tenderness. "Do not think ill of me, my son," cried he, "for having used you in the manner I have done; paternal affection forced me to it, and I deserve to be pardoned for the excess to which it carried me."—"Sire," replied Aladdin, "I have not the least reason to complain of your majesty's conduct: you have done only what was your duty. This magician, this infamous wretch, the most detestable of men, was the sole cause of my disgrace. When your majesty shall have leisure, I will give you an account of another piece of treachery which he was guilty of towards me, not less infamous than this, from which the peculiar providence of God has preserved me."—"I will take care to find an opportunity," said the sultan, "and that very soon. But let us now only think of making ourselves happy, and having this odious object removed."

Aladdin ordered the magician's body to be thrown away, that it might serve for the beasts and birds to prey upon. In the meantime, the sultan, after having commanded the drums, trumpets, tymbals, and other instruments, to announce a public rejoicing, had a festival proclaimed of ten

day's continuance, in honour of the return of the princess Badroul Boudour, of Aladdin, and his palace.

It was in this manner that Aladdin a second time escaped an almost inevitable death; but even this was not the last; he was in danger a third time; the circumstances attending which are now going to be related.

The African magician had a younger brother, who was not inferior to him in his knowledge of magic; and it may be said that he surpassed him in wicked intentions, and diabolical machinations. As they did not always live together, nor even in the same city, one sometimes being at the eastern extremity, while the other travelled in the most western part of the world; they did not fail once every year to inform themselves, by means of their knowledge of geomancy, in what part of the world the other was, how he was going on, and whether either wanted the assistance of the other.

Some time after the African magician had failed in his attempt against Aladdin, his younger brother, who had not received any intelligence of him for a year, and who was not in Africa, wished to know where he was, whether he was well, and what he was about. Into whatever place he travelled, he never went without his square geomantic box, as well as his brother. He took then this box, and having arranged the sand, he cast the points, drew the figures, and formed his horoscope. In examining each part, he discovered that his brother was no longer alive, that he had been poisoned, and that his death was sudden. On searching further, he found that this took place in a capital situated in such a particular part of Cathay; and that he, by whom he had been poisoned, was a man of low birth, but was married to a princess, the daughter of the sultan.

When the magician was thus apprised of the melancholy fate of his brother, he did not waste his time in useless regrets, which could not again restore him to life; but he took the instant resolution to avenge his death: he mounted his horse and directly began his journey towards Cathay. He traversed plains, rivers, mountains; and deserts and after a long journey, accomplished in the midst of almost incredible fatigue and diffi-

culty, he at length reached Cathay, and in a short time afterwards arrived at that capital, which his experiment in geomancy had pointed out. Certain of not being deceived, nor of having mistaken one kingdom for another, he arrived in this capital, and took up his abode there.

The very next morning the magician went out, and in walking through the city, not so much for the purpose of seeing its beauties, which did not at all affect him, as with the intention of commencing his measures in order to put his pernicious design into execution, he introduced himself into the most frequented places, and was very attentive to the conversation that passed. At a place where many people spent their time in playing a variety of games, and where, while some are playing, others entertain themselves with the news of the day, or with talking over their own private affairs, he observed that they spoke much of, and highly praised the virtues and piety of a woman, called Fatima, who led a retired life, and even of the miracles she performed. As he thought that this woman might perhaps be in some way useful in the business he was about, he took one of the persons aside and begged him to give a more particular account of this holy woman, and what sort of miracles she performed.

“What,” exclaimed this man, “have you never seen or even heard of her? She is the admiration of the whole city, by her fasting and austere life, and by the good example she sets. Except on Mondays and Fridays she never leaves her hermitage; but on these days she comes into the city, and she does an infinite deal of good, for there is no one, who is afflicted with a pain in the head, whoms he does not cure by laying her hands upon them.”

The magician did not want to know more on this subject; he only inquired of the same person in what quarter of the city the hermitage of this holy woman was. He informed him: upon which, after first forming the horrible design about to be mentioned, and that he might be the more sure of its success, he observed all her conduct on the very first day she went out after this inquiry, and did not lose sight of her the whole day, till she returned in the evening to her cell. When he had accurately re-

marked the spot, he returned to one of those places, where, as has been said, a certain warm liquor is prepared and sold, and where, if you choose it, you may pass the night, particularly during the hot weather, when the inhabitants of Cathay prefer sleeping upon a mat, rather than a bed.

The magician having first paid the owner for what he had, which did not amount to much, went out about midnight, and took the road to the hermitage of Fatima, the holy woman, the name by which she was distinguished throughout the city. He had no difficulty in opening the door, as it was only fastened by a latch. As soon as he entered, he shut it again without making any noise. He then perceived Fatima, by the light of the moon, lying almost in the open air, upon a couch with a ragged mat, close to the side of her cell. He approached, and after taking out a poniard he had by his side, he awoke her.

On opening her eyes, poor Fatima was very much astonished at seeing a man on the point of plunging a poniard into her. Holding the point of the dagger against her breast, ready in an instant to plunge it into her heart, "If you cry out," said he, "or make the least noise, I will murder you. Get up, and do what I bid you." Fatima, who always slept in her clothes, got up, trembling with fear. "Fear nothing," said the magician, "I only want your habit; give it me, and take mine." When this was done, and the magician was dressed in Fatima's clothes, he said to her, "Paint my face like yours, so that I shall resemble you, and the colour will not come off." As he saw that she still trembled, he added, in order to give her courage, and that she might do what he wanted of her the better, "Fear nothing, I tell you again; I swear, in the name of God, that I will spare your life." Fatima then carried him into the interior of her cell, lighted her lamp, and taking a certain liquid in a basin, and a pencil, she rubbed it over his face; assured him it would not change, and that there was no difference in colour, between hers and his. She then put upon him her own head-dress, with a veil, and instructed him how she concealed her face with it in walking through the city. She finished, by hanging a large necklace, or chaplet, round his neck, which

came down nearly to his waist; she then put the stick she was accustomed to walk with, into his hand, and giving him a mirror: "Look," she said, "and you will find that you cannot possibly resemble me more." The magician found everything as he wished; but he did not keep the oath he had so solemnly taken in her presence. But that no one might see the blood, which would fall if he stabbed her with his poniard, he strangled her, and when he found that she was dead, he drew the body by the feet to the cistern of the hermitage, and threw it in.

The magician, thus disguised like the holy woman, passed the remainder of the night in the hermitage, after having defiled it by so detestable a murder. Very early the next morning, although it was not the usual day for Fatima's appearance in the city, he did not hesitate to go out, because he was very well aware, that no one would ask him about it, or if they did, he might easily answer the question. As the first thing he did on his arrival in the city had been to go and observe the palace of Aladdin, and as it was there he meant to put his scheme in execution, he took the road towards it.

As soon as the people saw the holy woman, as every one imagined him to be, the magician was surrounded by a great crowd of people. Some recommended themselves to his prayers, others kissed his hand; some, still more respectful, kissed the hem of his robe; while others, either because they had the headache, or wished to be preserved from it, bent down before him, that he might lay his hands upon them; he did so, muttering at the same time a few words, like a sort of prayer. In short, he so well imitated the holy woman, that every one was deceived, and took him for her. After stopping very often, to satisfy those sort of people, who in fact received neither good nor harm from this imposition of hands, he at last arrived in the square before Aladdin's palace, where, as the crowd increased, the difficulty to get near him was also greater. The strongest and most zealous beat off the crowd to get a place for themselves, and hence several quarrels arose, the noise of which reached the

ears of the princess Badroul Boudour, who was sitting in the saloon with twenty-four windows.

The princess demanded what the occasion of the noise was ; and as no person could inform her, she ordered some one to go and see, and bring her an account. One of her women, without leaving the saloon, looked through the lattice, and then came and told her, that it arose from a crowd of people, who were collected round the holy woman, to be cured of a pain in their heads, by her laying her hands upon them.

The princess, who for some time past had heard every one speak in praise of this holy woman, but who had never yet beheld her, felt a desire to see and converse with her. Having mentioned something to this effect, the chief of the eunuchs, who was present, said, that if she wished it, he was sure he could get her to come, and that she had only to give her orders. The princess consented to it, and he instantly despatched four eunuchs with an order to bring back this pretended old woman with them.

As soon as the eunuchs were gone out of the gate of Aladdin's palace, and they were observed to make towards the place where the holy woman was, or rather the magician disguised as such, the crowd began to disperse, and when he was thus more at liberty, and saw that they were coming towards him, he went part of the way to meet them, and with the greater glee, as he thus saw that his cunning scheme was in a prosperous state. One of the eunuchs addressed him in these words: "Holy woman, the princess wishes to see you ; follow us."—"The princess honours me very much," replied the pretended Fatima. "I am ready to obey her commands:" and he then followed the eunuchs, who immediately went back to the palace.

When the magician, clothed in this sanctified dress, but with a heart the most diabolical, was introduced into the saloon with twenty-four windows, and perceived the princess, he began a prayer, which contained a long catalogue of exhortations and wishes for her piety, her prosperity,

and the accomplishment of everything she could desire. He then displayed all his hypocritical and deceitful rhetoric, in order to insinuate himself, under the cloak of great piety, into the good opinion of the princess. And in this it was so much the easier for him to succeed, as the princess, who was naturally of the best disposition, was persuaded that all the world were at least as good as herself; particularly all those who professed to serve God in a retired life.

When the false Fatima had finished her long harangue, "My good mother," replied the princess, "I am much obliged to you for your kind prayers; I have the greatest confidence in them, and trust God will hear them. Approach, and sit down near me." The pretended Fatima sat down with the greatest appearance of modesty; when the princess, continuing her speech, said: "My good mother, I have a request to make to you, which you must not refuse me, and that is that you come and live with me, that I may have you constantly to converse with, and may learn from your advice, and the good example you set me, how I ought to serve God."

"Princess," replied the false Fatima, "I entreat you not to require my compliance in a thing to which I cannot agree without breaking in upon my prayers and devotions."—"Do not let that give you any pain," resumed the princess; "I have many apartments which are not occupied; you shall chose that which you like best, and you shall have the power of attending to your devotions with as much liberty there as if you were in your own hermitage."

The magician, who had no other view but to introduce himself into Aladdin's palace, where it would be much easier for him to execute the wicked design he meditated by thus remaining under the auspices and protection of the princess, than if he were obliged to go backwards and forwards from the palace to the hermitage, did not make much difficulty in acceding to the obliging offer of Badroul Boudour. "Princess," he replied, "whatever resolution a poor and miserable woman like myself

may have made to renounce the world, its pomps and vanities, I nevertheless dare not resist either the wish or the command of so pious and charitable a princess."

Upon this answer, the princess herself got up, and said to the magician, "Rise, and come with me, that I may show you all the apartments that are unoccupied; you may then make your choice." He followed the princess through all the apartments she showed him, which were very good, and handsomely furnished. He chose the one which appeared to be the least so, saying at the same time, that it was much too good for him, and that he only made choice of it to oblige her.

The princess wished to take this impostor back with her to the saloon with twenty-four windows, and dine with her; but as it was necessary in the act of eating to uncover his face, which he had hitherto kept concealed by the veil, and as he was afraid she might not then suppose him to be Fatima, the holy woman, he begged her so earnestly to excuse him, saying that he never ate anything but bread and dried fruits, and to permit him to take his trifling meal in his own apartment, that she readily complied with his wishes. "My good mother," she said, "you are quite at liberty; do as you would in the hermitage; I will order them to carry you in some food, but remember that I shall expect you as soon as you have finished your repast."

The princess then dined, and the false Fatima did not fail to return to her, as soon as she was informed by a eunuch, whom she ordered to acquaint her, when she rose from table. "My good mother," said the princess, "I am delighted at enjoying the society of such a holy woman as you are, who will by your presence bring down blessings upon the whole palace. And now I mention this palace, pray tell me how you like it? But before I show you every particular part, tell me how you like this saloon."

At this inquiry, the pretended Fatima, who in order to act her part with more appearance of truth, had till now kept her head cast down towards the ground, without ever turning it to look on either side, at length

raised it, and looked at everything in the saloon, from one end to the other, and when she had thoroughly examined it, she said, "Indeed, princess, this saloon is truly beautiful, and worthy of admiration. But as far as a recluse can judge, who knows nothing of what is reckoned beautiful by the world in general, I think only one thing is wanting."—"What is that, my good mother?" inquired Badroul Boudour, "I entreat you to tell it me. For my part, I thought and had also heard it said, that nothing was wanting; but whatever may be deficient, I will have supplied."

"Pardon me this liberty, princess," replied the still dissembling magician; "my opinion, if it can be of any value, is, that if the egg of a roc were suspended from the centre of the dome, this saloon would not have its equal in either of the four quarters of the globe, and your palace would be the whole wonder of the universe."

"My good mother," resumed the princess, "what kind of a bird is a roc, and where could the egg of one be found?"—"Princess," answered the feigned Fatima, "the roc is a bird of prodigious size, which inhabits the summit of Mount Caucasus, and the architect who designed your palace can procure you one."

After having thanked the pretended Fatima for her kind information and good advice, at least as she thought it, the princess Badroul Boudour continued the conversation upon various other subjects; but she by no means forgot the egg of the roc, of which she fully intended to inform Aladdin, when he returned from hunting. He had already been absent six days, and the magician, who was well aware of this circumstance, wished to take every advantage of his absence. Aladdin returned on the same evening, at a time when the false Fatima had taken leave of the princess, and had retired to the apartment allotted to her. As soon as he entered the palace, he went to the apartment of the princess, to which she had already retired. He saluted and embraced her; but she seemed to him to receive him with rather less affection than usual. "I do not find you, my princess," said he, "in your usual good spirits. Has anything

happened during my absence, that has displeased or vexed you? Do not in the name of God conceal it from me, for there is nothing in my power, that I will not do to endeavour to dispel it.”—“It is a mere trifle,” replied the princess, “and it really gives me so little anxiety, that I did not suppose it would be so apparent in my face and manner, that you could have perceived it. But since you have observed some alteration in me, which I by no means intended, I will not conceal the cause, inconsiderable as it is.

“I thought, as well as you did,” the princess went on, “that our palace was the most superb, the most beautiful, and most ornamented of any in the whole world. I will tell you, however, what has come into my head, after having thoroughly examined the saloon with twenty-four windows. Do not you think with me, that if the egg of a roc were suspended from the centre of the dome, that we should have nothing to wish for?”—“It is enough, princess,” replied Aladdin, “that you think the want of a roc’s egg is a defect. You shall find by the diligence with which I am going to repair it, that there is nothing I will not do through my love for you.”

Aladdin instantly left the princess, and went up to the saloon with twenty-four windows; and then taking out of his bosom the lamp, which he now always carried about him, since the danger he had experienced from the neglect of that precaution, he rubbed it. The Genie immediately appeared before him. “Genie,” said Aladdin, “there wants to be the egg of a roc suspended from the centre of this dome, in order to make it perfect; I command you in the name of the lamp, which I hold, to get this defect rectified.”

Aladdin had scarcely pronounced these words before the Genie uttered so loud and dreadful a scream, that the very room shook, and Aladdin trembled so violently he was ready to fall. “What! wretch,” exclaimed the Genie, in a voice that would have made the most courageous man tremble, “is it not enough, that I and my companions have done everything thou hast chosen to command, but that thou repayest our services

by an ingratitude that is unequalled, and commandest me to bring thee my master, and hang him up in the midst of this vaulted dome? Thou art deserving, for this crime, of being instantly torn to atoms, with thy wife and palace with thee. But thou art fortunate, that the request did not originate with thee, and that the command is not in any way thine. Learn who is the true author. It is no other than the brother of thy enemy, the African magician, whom thou hast destroyed as he deserved. He is in thy palace, disguised under the appearance of Fatima, the holy woman, whom he has murdered; and it is he who has suggested the idea to thy wife, to make the horrible and destructive request thou hast done. His design is to kill thee, therefore take care of thyself." As the Genie said this, he vanished.

Aladdin lost not a syllable of the last words the Genie spoke. He had before heard of the holy woman Fatima, and was not ignorant of the manner in which she could cure a pain in the head, at least as they pretended. He then returned to the apartment of the princess, but did not mention what had happened to him. He sat down, and complained of a violent pain that had suddenly seized his head, and at the same time he held his hand up to his forehead. The princess directly ordered them to call the holy woman, and while they were gone, she related to Aladdin the manner in which she had induced her to come to the palace, where she had given her an apartment.

The pretended Fatima came; and as soon as she entered, Aladdin said to her, "I am very happy, my good mother, to see you, and it is for my advantage to have you here just now. I am tormented with a violent headache, which has not long attacked me. I request your assistance; and from the reliance I place on your good prayers, I hope you will not refuse me that favour which you grant to all who are thus afflicted." When he had said this, he bent his head forward, and the false Fatima also advanced; putting, at the same time, her hand upon a poniard, which was concealed in her girdle under her robe. Aladdin, who watched what she did, seized her hand before she could draw it, and piercing

her to the heart with her own weapon, he threw her dead upon the floor.

“What have you done, my dear husband?” exclaimed the princess in the greatest surprise; “you have killed the holy woman.”—“No, no, my princess,” answered Aladdin, without the least emotion, “I have not killed Fatima, but a villain who was going to assassinate me if I had not prevented him. It is this wretch, whom you behold,” added he, showing his face, “who has strangled Fatima, whom you thought I had destroyed, and therefore regretted; and who has disguised himself in her clothes in order to murder me. And to convince you still further, I must inform you, that he is the brother of the African magician who carried you off.” Aladdin then related to her in what manner he had learnt these particulars, and he then ordered the body to be removed.

It was in this manner, that Aladdin was delivered from the persecution of the two magicians. A few years after, the sultan, being now very old, died. As he left no male issue, the princess Badroul Boudour, as his legitimate heir, succeeded to the throne, and of course transferred the supreme power to Aladdin. They reigned together many years, and left an illustrious and numerous progeny.



