

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

INTO

SOME REMOTE COUNTRIES

RETOLD FROM

JONATHAN SWIFT

AND WRITTEN ANEW FOR CHILDREN

BY

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FOREWORD

NEARLY two hundred years have passed since the work commonly known as "Gulliver's Travels" was first given to the public by its author, Jonathan Swift. It was very popular from the beginning, and is now generally regarded as one of the great books of the world. Although it was not written for children, its accounts of adventures among tiny dwarfs and monstrous giants have always had a fascination for young readers. In its original form, however, there are many passages of no interest to boys and girls; the style is tedious, and numerous passages are better skipped than read. For these reasons I have rewritten and simplified the first two parts of the work, I have shortened the narratives by more than half, and in other ways I have tried to make the story suitable, in every respect, for young people.

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PART FIRST
A VOYAGE TO LILLIPUT

A VOYAGE TO LILLIPUT

HOW I BECAME A TRAVELER

TRAVELERS visit many strange places. They see very many wonderful things. When they return home they tell wonderful stories about what they have seen.

I myself have been a traveler.

I have traveled halfway round the world. No other man has seen the strange countries that I have visited.

My name is Gulliver—Lemuel Gulliver.

My father was a farmer in England. He had four sons, and I was the youngest.

It was understood, of course, that my eldest brother should have the farm. My second brother joined the army and became a soldier. My third brother chose to be a preacher.



"And now, what shall we make of Lemuel?" said my mother.

"Oh, he must be a doctor," answered my father.

I told my parents that I should rather be a traveler; but my father would not listen to me.

When I was fourteen years old I was sent to Cambridge where there is a great university in which boys are taught all kinds of wisdom.

I studied hard and learned some Latin and Greek. But it costs money to keep a boy at a university, and my father could not spare much for me.

My stay at Cambridge was very short. When I was seventeen I was sent to London to live with a famous surgeon there.

"Be a good boy, Lemuel, and you will learn to be a great doctor," said my father. But my mind was still set on being a traveler. I wished to see the world.

Now and then my father sent me a little money. I spent it all for books about ships and the sea.

I wished to know how to sail a ship on the great ocean. I studied hard, but I did not care much for what the surgeon taught me.

However, I learned something about nursing the sick. I learned also to talk well and to look wise when questioned. Everybody said that I would be a fine doctor.

When I was of age I found a place as surgeon on a fine new ship called the *Swallow*. I could not have been suited better.

I made two or three voyages in the *Swallow* and saw many strange things in the far-away countries which we visited.

At length, when I was twenty-four years old, my friends advised me to quit the sea. I took part of a small house in London and set up as a surgeon. My old master sent me some of his patients, and I was soon doing very well.

The next year I married Mary Burton, the daughter of a hosier on Newgate street. And now I might have been very happy at home, but my mind was fixed on being a traveler.

I spent my time in reading. My business began to fail. I could not feel contented.

"I think, Mary, that I will go to sea again," I said to my wife. She said she was willing, and so the matter was settled. We had then been married nine years.

A ship called the *Antelope* was about to sail on a long voyage to the South Sea. The captain, who knew me, offered to take me along as the ship's surgeon.

So I bade my wife and two children good-bye, and the next morning we were well out at sea.

HOW I WAS SHIPWRECKED



OUR voyage was a pleasant one. For days and weeks the ship sailed on, and nothing happened. The sea was smooth, the sky was clear, the air was mild.

For nearly six months we kept on our course. At last we were in the midst of the great South Sea.

Suddenly, in the night, a furious storm burst upon us. The wind blew us far out of our course.

We could do nothing in such a storm. The good ship was at the mercy of the waves.

Four of the sailors were washed overboard and drowned. Day after day, the storm kept up. We knew not where we were.

At last, to our great joy, the weather began to clear; but still the wind blew hard.

One morning there was a cry of "Land! Land!"

All of us ran out upon the deck.

What we saw was not land. It was a great black rock over which the waves were wildly dashing. The ship was driving straight upon it.

We had hardly time to move or think. The vessel struck against the rock so hard that she was split in two and began to sink.

Six of us rushed to the ship's boat. We let it down and leaped into it.

We pushed off from the sinking ship. By hard work we kept clear of the great rock. We rowed out into the open sea.

The waves were so high that the boat was tossed about like an egg-shell. It was as much as we could do to keep her right side up.

Thus we rowed for an hour or two, till we could work no longer. There was no land in sight. Nothing but wild waves everywhere.

Then, all at once, a strong gust of wind struck us.

The boat was upset. We were all thrown out into the deep sea.

What became of the other men, I do not know. I never saw one of them again.

As for myself, I was a good swimmer. By swimming and floating I kept myself on the water a long time. The wind and the tide carried me forward.

But at last I became so tired that I could not keep up any longer. I thought that there was no more hope for me. I began to sink.

What was my joy, however, to find that I was in a place so shallow that my feet rested upon the bottom! The water came only to my neck.

I waded onward. The water grew more and more shallow with every step.

The storm had died away. The sea was now quite smooth.

I could see land not far ahead of me. The sight gave me so much joy that I shouted aloud.

The shore seemed very low and level. But as I came nearer to it, I could see green hills in the distance.

I waded bravely onward, making all the haste I could; for now the sun was setting in the west.

HOW I FOUND MYSELF IN A STRANGE PLACE



It was about eight o'clock in the evening when I reached the shore. The sun was down, and night was at hand.

I walked about half a mile inland, but there was no sign of any living thing.

The weather was hot, and I was worn out with the toil and exposure which I had passed through.

I lay down to rest on the short thick grass. In a few minutes I was asleep.

I must have slept very soundly, for I did not even dream.

When I awoke it was morning, and the sun was shining brightly.

I looked up at the clear blue sky. I was hungry. It was time to be moving.

I tried to get up.

To my surprise I could not move hand or foot. I could not even raise my head.

I wondered what had happened to me.

I could only look up at the sky. The sun shone warm upon my face. The light hurt my eyes.

I struggled and tried to get loose; but it was of no use. I felt that I was tied to the ground.

I heard a strange noise around me, like that made by mice or chirping birds. I heard the grass rustle near my ears. What it all meant, I could not think.

After a while I felt something climb up on my left leg. Could it be a rat, or some other ugly animal?

It moved gently over my body. It came up to my shoulder and almost touched my chin. I was in a great fright, but I could not help myself.

I turned my eyes as far as I could, to see what sort of creature it was. You cannot guess what I saw.

I saw on my breast a little man not six inches high. He was as fine a little man as ever lived, but oh, how small he was!

He was dressed like a warrior in armor. He had a bow and arrow in his hand and a quiver at his back.

As I looked, I saw at least forty other little fellows like him, climbing up on my body.

I was never so much surprised. I do not know what I said, but I spoke very loud and shouted with all my might.

The little men were frightened at the sound of my voice. They ran back, and some of them were hurt by falling to the ground.

There was a great stirring all around me. I fancied that I could hear the voices of the little men calling to one another.

After a while they came back. I saw several standing on my breast and looking over at my face.

I struggled again to get loose. Had these little men tied my head, my arms, and my legs fast down to the ground? I felt sure that such was the case.

I struggled as hard as I could. The strings that held my left arm began to give way. Those that were tied to my hair were loosened a little. I could turn my head about two inches.

Then I pulled my left hand loose, and tried to catch hold of some of the little men, but they were very quick, and ran out of my way.

There was a great shout. The next moment I felt as though a hundred needles had been stuck into my left hand.

I looked at it. It was full of tiny arrows which the little warriors had shot into it from their bows.

Then I saw the savage fellows all around my head shoot a great number of arrows up into the air.

Some of these fell on my face; and if I had not covered my eyes with my left hand, I would have been blinded.

A few of the boldest warriors rushed at me with their spears, and tried to stab me. But I had on a leather jacket, and they could not hurt me in that way.

I thought now that I would lie still and see what my little enemies would do. My left hand was loose, and with it I could free myself when I wished. I would then be a match for the biggest army these little folks could bring against me.

So I lay quite still for a long time. I could hear the people talking all around me. I could hear a kind of hammering sound, as though they were building something.

I turned my head as far as I could, and peeped out under my hand. They had stopped shooting arrows at me.

HOW I ATE BREAKFAST UNDER DIFFICULTIES



I SOON saw what they were doing. They were building a little platform about ten feet from my head.

This platform was only a foot and a half high and about a foot square. When it was finished they set up two or three tiny ladders against it, and some of the men climbed up and sat down on it.

These men were dressed in fine robes, and I took them to be high officers of some kind. In England we should have called them persons of quality. From their place on the platform they could get a good view of my face.

One of them stood up and made a speech to me. It was funny to see and hear him. He spoke a long time, but I could not understand a word he said.

From his manner I could see what he meant. I could see that he sometimes spoke in pity and kindness; and sometimes he was telling me what dreadful things they would do if I did not behave.

When he sat down, I made a little speech in answer to him. I spoke as gently as I could, but my voice must have sounded like thunder to the tiny fellow.

I told him that I would not hurt any of them, and that they need not be afraid to set me free.

Then I pointed to my mouth and tried to tell him how hungry I was.

He understood that part of my speech very well.

He at once gave out some orders to the men who were standing around the platform.

A dozen ladders were set up against my side. A hundred little men climbed up with tiny baskets in their hands.

These baskets, I saw, were full of food. There were legs and shoulders like those of mutton, but very small. There were loaves of bread no larger than one of my vest buttons. There were little dishes of jams and jellies and other dainties.

It seems that the king of the country had sent out this food as soon as he had heard about me. He was a wise man and knew that the best way to reach the heart is through kindness.

Well, it did not take me long to eat this breakfast, for I had tasted nothing for two days.

I ate two or three legs of mutton at one mouthful. I took three or four loaves at once. As for the sweetmeats, they hardly made a taste.

The little men had to move fast to keep the food within my reach. They must have thought that I had a wonderful appetite.

They next brought me something to drink. They knew that I would need a good deal, and so they brought it in barrels.

By means of ropes, they hauled the barrels up upon my body. They rolled each barrel along on my breast till it was within reach of my left hand. Then they opened the top of it, and I drank from it as from a tiny goblet.

I do not know how many barrels they brought, but as each was no larger than a small ink bottle, I must have had three or four.

After this I felt much better. I kept very quiet, and waited to see what would happen.

In the afternoon there was a great stir among the little people.

I could hear them blowing horns and shouting. I could see them marching and forming in lines as though they were expecting some great person to arrive.

Soon an officer of high rank came up to the place, with a great company of knights and soldiers following him. He had come direct from the king of the country.

How handsome he was! He was dressed in a splendid manner. His coat sparkled with jewels and gold. The hilt of his sword was made of a single diamond.

With about a dozen of his followers he mounted upon my body. He walked boldly over my breast, and stood right at my chin.

Then he made a speech to me. He tried to tell me that I must go to their city, which was about half a mile away. He tried to tell me that the king was waiting there to see me.

I did not understand him, of course, but I made signs that I should be glad to be set free. I moved my left hand and arm, but was very careful not to hurt him or his men.

He understood me well enough. He shook his head as if to say that he could not do as I wished. Yet he made signs that I should have plenty of food and drink.

I felt that my best plan would be to give these little people no cause for alarm. So I told the officer, as well as I could, that he might do with me as he wished.

He saw that my hands and face were still full of the arrows that had been shot at me. This seemed to cause him sorrow. He sent a dozen men, clambering all over me, to pull these arrows out.

Then they daubed both my hands and my face with a sweet-smelling salve. This healed the smarting wounds, and they hurt me no more.

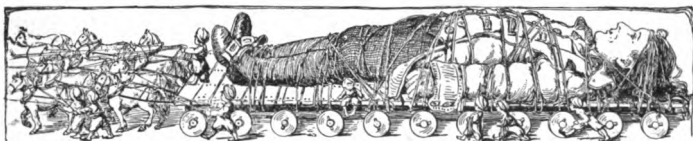
The little people now left me for a while, and I fell asleep. I slept soundly for at least eight hours.

This was no wonder; for I heard afterwards that the cunning fellows had mixed sleeping powders with my drink.

It seems that some of the little people had discovered me soon after I had lain down on the grass to rest. They had at once carried the news to their King, and it was through his orders that they had bound me while I was asleep.

How lucky it was that they did not attack me in the night with their bows and arrows! For then I might have done them great harm.

HOW I RODE IN STYLE TO THE CAPITAL CITY



WHEN I awoke I found myself bound hand and foot much stronger than before.

I could turn my head, however, enough to see a queer little wagon by my side. It was made of wood, and it rested on twenty-two little wheels each about as big as a saucer.

The frame was about seven feet long and four feet wide. The top of it was not more than four inches from the ground.

It was a great piece of work for such tiny men to make. Five hundred little carpenters had been busy with it all day.

I soon understood that I was to ride to the city on this funny wagon. But how were they going to put me on it?

They had already made their plans for that, for they were as wise as they were small.

They set up strong poles by the side of the wagon. These poles were about the length of a walking-stick.

On top of each pole was a pulley. Over each pulley a long rope was carried.

One end of each rope was fastened around my body, my neck, or my legs. At the other end a hundred men pulled with all their might.

I kept quite still and did not struggle at all.

In less than three hours I was rolled upon the wagon. The little men tied me fast to the frame.

Some of the tiniest horses you ever saw were then hitched to the wagon. They were not five inches high.

They were hitched four by four in a long line, and I afterwards learned there were fifteen hundred of them.

They belonged to the king, and were the largest and finest horses in the country.

Thirty drivers ran by the side of this grand team. They were dressed in red uniforms, and each carried a tiny whip in his hand.

They shouted, the horses strained at their traces, and onward toward the city of the little men we went.

Did you ever hear of so grand a ride?

We soon came to a smooth road, and then the horses galloped forward at a great rate. The drivers ran. The soldiers and workmen followed behind.

At last we reached one of the gates of the city.

The King and all his high officers were there to meet us. Crowds of women and children were there, too.

There was a great deal of shouting and running about when the wagon stopped.

The King looked at me in much wonder. He wished to mount on my body.

But his officers would not let him do this. They told him that he must not thus rush into danger.

At the place where the wagon stopped there was a grand temple.

It was the largest building in the whole country. The people thought that it was one of the wonders of the world.

The gate to this temple was about three feet high. The roof rose to a height of six feet.

I soon found that this was to be my lodging place.

Ninety-one chains, like ladies' watch chains, were locked to my left leg with thirty-six padlocks.

Each of these chains was about two yards long; and each was fastened at the other end to the doorpost of the temple.

When the workmen had thus chained me, so that I could not get away, they cut all the strings that had bound me to the wagon.

I sat up and looked around, while the little men and their King gazed in wonder.

I was quite stiff from lying still so long, and so I was in no haste to move.

After a while I arose and stood on my feet.

The fifteen hundred horses started forward. The great wagon was drawn swiftly out of my way.

What a noise the people made when they saw me standing up and walking!

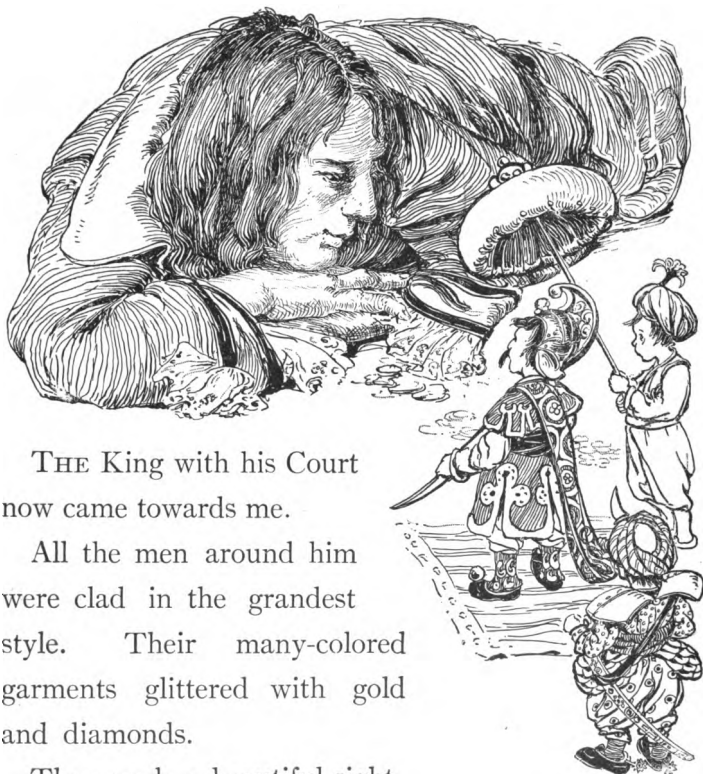
They clapped their hands and shouted with wonder and delight.

But as I have said, the chains that held me were short, and I could take only two steps this way, or two steps that way.

When I wanted to rest I could creep into the temple, and lie down.

I soon learned that this place was to be my prison. It was to be my home as long as I stayed in that wonderful country.

HOW I MADE FRIENDS WITH THE KING



THE King with his Court
now came towards me.

All the men around him
were clad in the grandest
style. Their many-colored
garments glittered with gold
and diamonds.

They made a beautiful sight.

The King was nearly half an inch taller than any of
his Court. He was very handsome and graceful.

I lay down on my side, with my face close to the
ground, so that I could see him better.

His dress was quite simple.

He wore a helmet-shaped hat with a red feather in it. The band of the hat was stuck full of jewels.

He held his sword drawn in his hand. It was about three inches long. The hilt was of gold stuck full of tiny diamonds.

The King was a brave man, as every king ought to be. If I had broken loose, he would have been ready to defend himself. Ten thousand soldiers were also ready to attack me if I should act ugly or give any trouble.

The King came close to my face and spoke to me.

His voice was shrill like the chirp of a cricket, but it was clear and musical.

I could not understand a word he said.

I answered him as softly as my voice would allow.

He did not understand me. Yet after thus speaking to each other we felt that we were friends.

In a little while the King and his Court went back into the city.

Most of the soldiers, too, marched away, and I was left with only a small guard.

But now thousands of the common people came out of the city to look at me.

They stood around and hooted at me. It was really very funny to hear them.

The guard had now enough to do to keep them from crowding up to my very feet.

I sat down by the door of my house, and let them stare at me as much as they wished.

Then some rough fellows among them shot their arrows at my face.

The arrows did no harm, but the captain of the guard at once arrested the men who had shot them.

There were six of the fellows.

The captain ordered them to be bound with strong cords. Then he delivered them into my hands.

I put five of them into my coat pocket.

The other one, who was the ringleader, I held for some time between my thumb and finger. Then I opened my mouth as if I would eat him.

You should have heard him scream.

Then I took out my penknife. The captain of the guard and all the people were frightened.

I soon quieted their fears, however, and showed them that I meant no harm.

I cut the cords that bound the little fellow. Then I set him gently on the ground, and let him go.

How gladly he ran away!

I took the others, one by one, from my pocket. I cut their cords and set them free.

The people shouted with admiration. They were delighted to see that although I was so big, yet I could be kind and merciful.

After this I crept into my house and lay down on the ground. Night came on, and I fell asleep.

My bed was a hard one, but I had to wait till the little people could make me a better.

This they did at last by sewing six hundred of their own beds together.

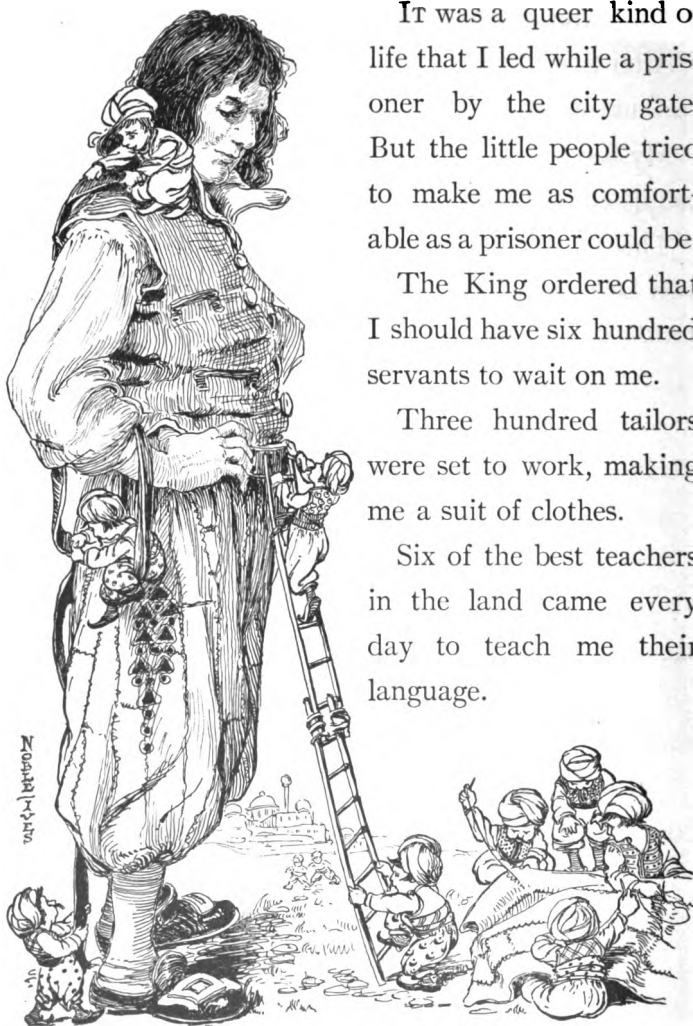
HOW I LIVED BY THE CITY GATE

It was a queer kind of life that I led while a prisoner by the city gate. But the little people tried to make me as comfortable as a prisoner could be.

The King ordered that I should have six hundred servants to wait on me.

Three hundred tailors were set to work, making me a suit of clothes.

Six of the best teachers in the land came every day to teach me their language.



I could soon speak many of their words and I learned, to understand what they said to me.

The King came to see me often. He was very kind, and seemed to wish to make me happy.

The first words I learned were to ask him to set me free. Every time he came, I repeated these words on my knees.

"Not now," he said, in his own language. "You must wait. You must learn. You must promise that you will not harm us."

One day he brought two officers with him.

"I have brought these men to search you," he said. "But, of course, they cannot do this without your help. So I hope that you will not harm nor hinder them."

"Certainly," I said, "I shall be very kind to them and aid them as much as I can."

I then took the little officers up and gently put them one by one into my coat pocket.

What a time they had there!

One of them had pen, ink, and paper, and he made a list of all the things that they found about me.

When they had finished with one pocket I took them out and put them in another.

The list was given to me a long time afterward, and I translated it into English. It ran as follows:

*"A List of Things Found in the Pockets of the Great
Man-Mountain*

"In the right coat pocket we found only one great piece of coarse cloth. It was large enough to carpet the King's grand reception room.

"In the left pocket we saw a huge silver chest with a silver lid, which we could not lift. We asked the Man-Mountain to open it for us. It was full of a yellow dust that set us both to sneezing most dreadfully.

"In the right vest pocket we found a number of white, thin slabs of a substance which he calls paper. These were folded in the form of our books, and were covered with great black marks which we think must be his writing.

"In the left vest pocket we found a kind of framework of twenty long poles fastened at one end to a broader piece of the same material. The Man-Mountain uses this to comb his hair.

"In a smaller pocket on the right side, we found several flat, round pieces of different sizes. Some of these were silver, and some were of a red metal. The Man-Mountain called them *money*. He seemed to be very fond of them.

"From another pocket a big silver chain was hanging

down. We found at the end of this chain a most wonderful engine inclosed in a case of silver. A shining substance covered one side of it. We could see through the shining substance. At the center of a circle beneath this substance, two long poles were fastened; and these moved around, the one slower, the other faster.

“This engine makes a noise like a water mill. The Man-Mountain calls it a *watch*.

“We think that it must be some unknown animal, of which he takes great care.

“The above is a list of what we found on the body of the Man-Mountain, who treated us very kindly.”

There was one pocket which they did not find, and I did not wish to put them inside of it.

In it were my spectacles and a small spyglass, both of which I prized very highly.

I did not think it my duty to tell them about these things.

When the little officers had finished searching me, I lifted them down and set them on their feet beside the King.

They bowed to me very politely, and the King thanked me for being so gentle and good-natured.

HOW I AMUSED MYSELF IN CAPTIVITY



THUS the days passed by, and still I was a prisoner at the city gate.

I behaved so well and was so kind to all the little people, that the King seemed well pleased with me.

The people took great delight in coming to see me.

Sometimes five or six of them would dance in my hand; and this was very pleasing to me.

Even the boys and girls were my friends. I would

lie down on the ground while they played hide-and-seek in my hair.

The horses were at first very much afraid of me. But they soon learned not to shy when they saw me. Indeed, they became so gentle that I could hold two or three in my hand at once.

One day some huntsmen were riding past. I put out my foot by the roadside, and one of the horses leaped over it as over a wall. It was indeed a great leap.

I did everything that I could think of to amuse the King.

Once I stuck nine sticks in the ground, so as to form a square. Across these sticks, at the top, I laid other sticks so as to make a kind of framework about two feet high.

Then I laid my handkerchief over the top of the framework. I drew it around at the sides till it was as tight as a drum.

It made a very pretty little platform.

Then I asked the King to let twenty-four of his best horsemen have a parade on the platform.

The King gave his consent.

So I took up the horses and their riders and set them down on the handkerchief. They made a pretty little show as they stood there, all in order.

At a word they galloped forward and divided into two parties.

The horsemen shot their blunt arrows. They drew their tiny swords. They had the finest mock battle I ever saw.

I had laid sticks around the edge of the platform so that they could not fall off.

The King sat on my hand and watched the whole game with great delight.

At a sign from him, the horsemen formed in line again, and I lifted them to the ground.

Everyone was so much pleased that the King ordered the game to be played again the next day.

This time the Queen came; and she let me hold her in a chair quite close to the platform where she could watch everything. How pretty it was to see her clap her tiny hands to applaud the best riders!

At last a fiery little steed kicked a hole through my handkerchief. He stumbled, and his rider went flying heels over head. But they were not hurt.

I picked them both up and set them on their feet. Then I mended the handkerchief as well as I could.

After this I was afraid to let the sport go further. So I lifted all the horses and horsemen to the ground.

The Queen thanked me, and the show was ended.

HOW I GAINED MY LIBERTY

THE King and his Court were so much pleased with me that I had great hopes of being set free.

But there was one great man who would not consent. This was Bolgolam, the admiral.

For some reason he did not like me, and he had made up his mind to do me as much harm as he could.

He had great power in the country, and the King himself did not dare to do anything without first asking his opinion.

At last, however, he consented to give me my liberty. But first, I had to make certain promises on oath. This I did in the following manner:

I held my right foot in my left hand; I placed the middle finger of my right hand on the crown of my head, with my thumb resting on my right ear.



Then I promised to obey the King in all things, and to observe the following conditions which were set down in writing:

“Rules for the Conduct of the Man-Mountain

“Thus declareth the mighty King of Lilliput, the delight and terror of the world, the King of all kings, whose feet press the center of the earth, whose head strikes against the sun.

“Pleasant as the spring is he, comfortable as the summer, fruitful as the autumn, dreadful as the winter.

“Thus he declareth concerning the Man-Mountain, who but lately came into his dominions of Lilliput.

“*First.* The Man-Mountain shall not go away from our country without the King’s leave.

“*Second.* He shall not dare to come into our city without the King’s leave, and then he shall give the people two hours’ warning to stay indoors.

“*Third.* He shall walk only in the high roads of our country and not offer to lie down in any meadow or cornfield.

“*Fourth.* As he walks he shall take great care not to step on any of our people, their horses, or their carriages. He shall not pick up any of them without their consent.

"Fifth. In case one of our messengers is sent to a great distance in haste, the Man-Mountain shall carry him and his horse a six days' journey and back again without doing him any harm.

"Sixth. He shall help us in our war against the people in the island of Blefuscu.

"Lastly. Upon his solemn oath to obey these rules, the Man-Mountain shall have his freedom. He shall be given each day as much meat and drink as would support 1728 of the people of Lilliput. He shall have the favor of the King.

"Signed by the King in his own palace, on the twelfth day of the ninety-first moon of his reign."

As soon as I had agreed to these conditions, my chains were unlocked, and I was set free.

But I did not go away from the little temple by the city gate.

It was to be my home, and I set about making it as pleasant as possible.

I now had all that I could wish. I had my freedom. I had a host of servants to wait on me. I had plenty to eat and drink. I had the friendship of the King.

HOW I UNDERTOOK A GREAT ENTERPRISE



ONE morning the King's secretary came to my house.

He came in a coach with only one servant.

He said that he wished to talk with me about a matter of great importance. Would I listen to him?

"Oh, yes," I said. "I shall be very glad to hear anything you wish to tell me."

I offered to lie down so that he could stand close to my ear. But he chose to let me hold him in my hand.

"How glad I am," he said, "that you have been given your freedom."

I assured him that I also was gratified.

Then he told me that his master, the King of Lilliput,

had been at war for a long time with the people of Blefuscu.

“What is this Blefuscu?” I asked.

“It is a country on the farther side of the sea,” he said. “It is almost as large and powerful as Lilliput. Indeed, it is the only other country in the world.”

“How strange!” I said. “But you must not forget my own country, England. It also is very rich and powerful.”

“Well, as to that,” answered the secretary, “our wise men have their own opinions. They believe that you dropped from the moon. For no country in this world could be broad enough to hold a hundred men as large as you.”

I asked if he did not believe that there was any such country as England.

“Well,” he answered, “our histories go back for more than six thousand moons; and they mention only two countries, Lilliput and Blefuscu. Is it not plain that there are no others?”

Then he made known the object of his visit.

“The war with Blefuscu,” he said, “has been going on for a long time. I will tell you how it began.

“In ancient times every person who ate an egg broke the shell at the big end.

“But one day the grandfather of our King while breaking a shell in this way cut one of his fingers.

“He was not hurt very much, but he at once made up his mind that there was a better way to get at the inside of an egg.

“So he made a law that all his subjects should break their eggshells at the little end.

“There were many people, however, who did not like this. They said, ‘The old way is the best. We will do as our fathers did.’

“They said they would fight for their liberties. They raised armies, and there was war between them and the King.

“Six times these Big Endians, as they are called, have rebelled against the King.

“It is said that more than eleven hundred persons have suffered death rather than break their eggs on the little end.

“At times it seemed that these rebels, the Big Endians, would get the upper hand.

“One of our Kings lost his life in battle with them. Another lost his crown.

“At last a number of them crossed over into Blefuscu.

“They made friends with the Emperor of that country, and persuaded him to help them.

“And now, for six and thirty moons, a fierce war has been going on between the two countries.

“Yesterday, the news came that the Emperor of Blefuscu has fitted out a great fleet of war ships to send against us.

“We have only a few small ships, and it will be hard for us to defend our shores against so great a force. We have no navy at all.

“In fact, our King is in great distress, for he sees no way to save our country from its enemies.

“He hopes, however, that you will kindly give him some help in this his time of need.”

Here the secretary ended his speech and sat down in my hand, waiting for my reply.

I told him to carry my best wishes to the King and to assure him of my friendship.

“Say to him,” I said, “that I will do all that I can. I will risk my life to defend him against his enemies. I will undertake to go out single-handed against the great Blefuscudian fleet.”

The secretary thanked me, and I put him gently down upon the ground.

Then he bowed and went back to his coach.

HOW I CAPTURED A NAVY



THE very next day I sent word to the King that I had a plan for capturing the fleet of the Blefuscudians.

“Do whatever you think is best,” he said. “I and my people will be grateful to you whether you succeed or not.”

The empire of Blefuscu is an island a little to the north and east of Lilliput. Between the two islands there is a channel about half a mile wide.

I asked some of the sailors of Lilliput about the depth of this channel.

They told me that at high water it was seventy *glumgluffs* deep at the very deepest part.

Now a *glumgluff* in Lilliput is about the same as an inch in England. So I understood that the greatest depth of the channel was not above six feet.

I walked over to the coast nearest to Blefuscu. There I sat down on a little hillock and looked across the channel.

With my spyglass I could see the enemy's fleet on the other side. It was at anchor in a small bay.

I counted the ships. There were fifty war ships besides other vessels.

After I had seen just how everything was, I went back to my house. Then I sent my servants into the city for a number of the strongest cables that could be made. I also ordered fifty long iron bars.

The cables when they were brought were not quite so large as I wished. Each one was about the size of our common wrapping thread.

So I twisted three of them together, and thus made fifty very strong cables.

The iron bars were about the size of knitting needles. I bent each of these at the end, so as to form a hook. To the other end I tied a cable.

With these things in my pocket I went back to the coast, and again looked across the channel.

The great fleet of the Blefuscudians was still riding at anchor in the little bay.

Several thousands of Lilliputians had followed me, and these now stood in crowds along the shore.

The King and his Court were there also, very anxious to see what I was going to do.

Being so small, they of course could not see far over the water. The channel, to them, was as broad as the English Channel is to us in England.

I took off my coat and my shoes and stockings. Then I waded out into the channel.

The water was not very deep. In most places it was not above my shoulders.

But in the middle of the channel I found it easier to swim a little way.

In about half an hour I waded into the little bay where the enemy's fleet was lying.

You should have seen the fright of the little seamen when they caught sight of me.

Some of them jumped out of their ships and swam to the land. Some, I have no doubt, were drowned.

Their whole army seemed to be encamped by the shore. I think there must have been at least thirty thousand little soldiers in bright yellow uniforms.

What a stir there was among them as I waded straight towards the fleet!

I took the hooks and cords from my pocket. In the hole at the prow of each ship of war I fastened a hook. Then I tied all the cords together at the end.

While I was doing this the soldiers on shore shot their arrows at me. Some of these stuck in my hands and face but did not hurt me much.

A few came so near my eyes that I began to fear lest I should be blinded.

But at that moment I thought of the spectacles which I still had in my secret pocket.

I took them out and fastened them on my nose. I was none too quick about this, for a great shower of arrows soon struck against the glasses and bounded off into the water. I would surely have lost my eyes if it had not been for these glasses.

I next took the knot of cords in my right hand and began to pull. But, pull as hard as I could, not a ship would stir. They were all held fast by their anchors. What should I do?

I took my penknife and waded quite close to the ships. Then I stooped down and cut each of the cables that held the anchors.

This was the boldest part of the whole business.

At least two hundred arrows were shot into my face and hands. It was much like being stuck with thistles. And now I pulled again at my cords.

The fifty ships-of-war floated after me. It was no labor at all to draw them over the water.

HOW I WAS MADE A *NARDAL*



How the Blefuscudians shouted when they saw their fleet moving away from them! I cannot describe their grief and fear.

When I was at a safe distance from the shore, I stopped to pick the arrows out of my hands and face. Then I took off my spectacles.

The tide was now quite high, and I waited an hour or two for it to go down. It was much easier to wade when the water was shallow.

The sun was almost down when I reached the shore of Lilliput with my captured fleet behind me. How all the little people cheered when they saw me coming!

I waved my hand above my head and shouted, "Long live the mighty King of Lilliput!"

The King was at the landing place to welcome me.

"Here are the ships of your enemy," I said, as I fastened the cables to the shore.

"Well done, my noble Man-Mountain," cried the King. He would have shaken hands with me if he could.

But he did that which was much better. He made me a *nardal* on the spot.

A *nardal* in Lilliput is much the same as a knight. It is the highest honor that a man can hold.

"Kneel, noble Man-Mountain," said the King.

I knelt as humbly as I could; I threw myself down before him.

He struck me three times with the flat of his sword. He muttered some words which I did not understand. Then he bade me rise.

"Rise, Sir Man-Mountain, most powerful of my subjects," he said. "It is thus that I reward thee."

The King was beside himself with joy. He was not satisfied with what had been done; he wished me to capture all the ships of every kind that could be found on the coast of Blefuscu.

More than this, he wished me to help him conquer the whole country of Blefuscu.

He wished to build up a great empire. He dreamed of becoming the ruler of the whole world.

I was sorry to see him thus filled with an unworthy ambition.

I tried to show him that he was happier as King of Lilliput than he could ever be as emperor of the world.

“Besides,” I said, “these Blefuscudians have a right to life and liberty. Never will I be the means of bringing a brave and free people into slavery.”

The wisest men of the Court declared that I was right. “We can gain nothing by conquering other lands,” they said.

But it was plain that the King did not agree with us. At the moment of victory he was displeased.

HOW I BECAME A PEACEMAKER



ABOUT three weeks passed by.

The King had not given up the thought of conquering Blefuscu. He wanted to become the ruler of the whole world and make all the people, everywhere, break their eggs on the little end.

With the fifty ships which I

had captured for him he now had a very large navy.

He had also a fine army of nearly a hundred thousand men. It was a grand sight to see them all drawn up in marching order.



But the King's wise men held him back. They told him how foolish it was to wish to become a world power, as they called it.

"Let us attend to our own business," they said, "and let the Blefuscudians attend to theirs."

As for myself, I stayed quite close at home. I gave the King to understand that I thought one great victory was enough.

At length a ship arrived from Blefuscu with a flag of truce flying from her mast.

On board of her were six of the chief men of Blefuscu with a train of about five hundred persons. They were all dressed in fine style, and when they landed they made a very grand appearance.

They had come to beg for peace.

After some days a treaty was signed. The Lilliputians were to keep the fleet that I had captured for them. The Blefuscudians were to keep all the Big Endians and make them behave themselves.

What more could our people wish?

After this business was ended, the six Blefuscudian chiefs came to pay me a visit.

They had heard that, by advising the King, I had befriended them, and they came to thank me.

"You were very brave to capture our fleet," they said.

“But you were a thousand times braver when you told the King that you would not help him enslave a free people.”

Then, in their Emperor’s name, they invited me to visit their country.

I thanked them, and asked them to give my respects to their Emperor.

“I will surely visit Blefuscu,” I said, “before I return to England.”

The chiefs bowed and departed. I watched them as they sailed away with their splendid train of followers. They were indeed noble-looking men.

The next time that our King came to see me I told him that I very much wished to visit Blefuscu and see what sort of country it was. Would he give me leave to go?

He looked at me coldly. He frowned. But at last he said that I might go for a short time if I would promise to return to Lilliput.

It was easy for me to do this. And so the business was settled.

HOW THE PEOPLE OF LILLIPUT LIVED



BEFORE I go farther with my story I will tell you something more about the country of Lilliput and how I lived there.

The people, as I have said, were very small. The tallest men were not more than six inches in height. The commonest height was about five and a half inches, while the women were somewhat smaller.

The animals and plants on the island were of like size. The tallest horses and oxen were between four and five inches in height. The sheep were an inch and a half, more or less.

Their geese were not as big as our sparrows. Their larks were smaller than our house flies.

Their tallest trees were about seven feet high. Those that grew in the King's park were but little higher than my head when I walked among them.

Outside of the city there were many beautiful farms where all kinds of grain and cattle were raised.

It was quite funny to see the little farmers with their little horses or oxen plowing in the fields or hauling their produce to market.

It was funnier still to see the little women carrying their eggs to town.

The city was well laid out, with streets running straight across from one side to the other. The two main streets which met at the King's palace were four feet wide. The rest were not more than three feet wide.

When I walked through the city I was always obliged to give two hours' notice, as I have already said. Then the people went into their houses and stayed there until I had passed.

As I did not like to cause so much trouble, I made only two such walks during my whole stay in Lilliput.

My greatest fear was that I might step on some of the children who were always playing in the streets.

The houses were pretty little buildings about two feet high, and commonly of two or three stories. Some of them were of wood, but in the best parts of the town they were of brick.

I shall say but little of the learning of the people, which was quite general. In fact there were schools everywhere, and no child was allowed to grow up without knowing how to read and write.

Their writing was very strange. It was not from left to right like ours. It was not from right to left like that of the Arabs. It was not from bottom to top like that of the Chinese. It was aslant from one corner to another, like that of some schoolboys I have known.

And now I will tell you something of my own manner of life during the nine months and thirteen days that I was in the island.

Out of two of the largest trees in the country I made myself a chair and a table. These, with the bed that I have told you about, were all the furniture that I had in my house.

Two hundred sewing girls were kept busy making

me shirts, sheets, and tablecloths. These they made of the very coarsest cloth they could get, but even this was so fine that it had to be doubled many times.

Their linen was about three inches wide, and three feet made a roll or piece.

Three hundred tailors were busy all the time, making my clothes.

When they wished to take my measure, they raised a ladder from the ground to my waist.

Then one of them climbed the ladder and let a plumb line drop from my collar to the floor. This was the length of my coat.

My waist and arms I measured myself.

When my clothes were finished they looked like the patchwork that ladies in our country sometimes make; but they were all of the same color.

I had three hundred cooks to get my meals. They lived in little huts around my house, and each brought me two dishes of food, morning, noon, and night.

I had a hundred and twenty waiters. I took up twenty of these in my hand and set them on my table. The rest stayed on the ground, and brought the food in barrels and boxes and hampers. All of these things the waiters on the table drew up by means of ropes, just as people sometimes draw up water from a well.

A dish of their meat made a fair mouthful for me. I once had a sirloin steak so large that I took three bites at it; but that must have been taken from a very large beef.

I could eat a goose or a turkey at one mouthful; and of their young chickens I could take up a dozen on the end of my knife.

HOW I EXHAUSTED THE TREASURY

ONE day the King sent me word that he and the Queen would be delighted to dine with me. They would also be glad to bring a few of the young princes and princesses if it so pleased me.



Of course I was glad to welcome such royal guests. I felt very proud, I assure you.

When they came I placed them on my table just across from me. Each sat in a beautiful golden chair, while the King's guards in velvet and gold stood behind them.

Flimnap, the lord high treasurer, was there also, with his staff, all dressed in white.

It was as grand a dinner party as anyone ever saw.

But I could see that Flimnap did not like me. His looks were sour, and he said but little. He would scarcely smile at any of my best jokes.

This did not trouble me much. I went on eating, and in order to astonish the young princes, I took larger mouthfuls than usual.

When the dinner was over, the King and Queen took leave of me, and we all parted in pleasant humor.

Flimnap, as I afterwards learned, went home with the King and had a long talk with him.

“Does your Majesty know that the treasury is almost empty?” he asked. “This Man-Mountain is ruining the country. He is eating everything up.

“He has already cost your Majesty more than a million of *sprugs*, and the fleet which he captured for you is not worth half that sum.

“The price of food stuffs is double what it was before this Man-Mountain came among us; and the poor people can scarcely get enough to eat.

“Let me pray your Majesty for the love of our country to send this monster away. Make use of the first good excuse to tell him to go.”

This, as I was told, was the speech which Flimnap delivered to the King.

What the King's reply was I do not know. But certain it is that he had no great love for me. He disliked me because I would not help him conquer the Blefuscudians.

HOW I HEARD SOME BAD NEWS

I WAS busy one day getting ready to go on my visit to Blefescu. At night I was so tired that I went to bed very early.

Just as I was dropping to sleep, one of my servants told me that a stranger wished to see me.

"Who is he?" I asked.

"He would not give his name," was the answer, "but he seems to be a person of importance. He says that he must see you and talk with you about a matter of life and death."

I arose and dressed myself. Then I told the servant to admit the stranger.

A moment later, a little fellow dressed in a long black cloak was ushered in. His face was hidden under the brim of his slouch hat, and I could not guess who he was.

"Leave us," I said to the servant.

I shut the door and locked it. I put the key in my



pocket. Then I picked up the stranger and placed him on the table.

He threw off his cloak and hat. He smoothed back the long hair that had fallen over his forehead. Then I knew him at once.

He was one of the highest officers at the King's court. He was one of my truest friends, for I had once done him a great service. He was, like myself, a nardal.

His face was full of trouble.

"Will you listen to me a little while?" he asked. "Your life is in danger."

"Say whatever you wish," I answered; and I sat down by the table so that he could speak into my ear.

"Well, then," he said, "you must know that Bolgolah, the admiral, has been your enemy ever since you came to this country. Since your capture of the Blefuscudian fleet he has been more bitter in his hatred.

"He and the lord high treasurer, Flimnap, have accused you of treason. They have held several councils with the King, and have brought serious charges against you."

"What are those charges?" I asked.

"Well, first, that you do not regard the wishes of the King. When you captured the fleet of Blefuscu, the King desired you to invade the enemy's country, to

seize all the Big Endians there, and to force all the people to break their eggs on the little end."

"And I refused," I said.

"Yes," said my visitor, "you excused yourself by saying that you were not willing to destroy the liberties of a free and innocent people. This, they say, was an act of treason."

"Very well," I answered, "if this be treason, let them make the most of it."

My visitor went on with his story.

"When the chiefs of Blefuscu came to Lilliput, begging peace, you received them as friends and entertained them. You knew that they had lately been at war against our King, and yet you treated them kindly and sent them away with gifts. This, they say, was a second act of treason."

I made no answer to this, and my friend went on.

"It is now well known," he said, "that you are getting ready to pay a visit to the Emperor of Blefuscu. This is a thing that no faithful subject of our King would think of doing. It is, in fact, a third act of treason."

"Then I suppose," said I, "that there is no help for me, false traitor that I am."

"Well," he answered, "the last council on the sub-

ject was held in the King's palace to-day. There was a long debate, and you were judged to be guilty.

"The King wished to be merciful. He said that you had saved the country, and that you ought to be pardoned. But Flimnap and Bolgolam would not listen. They said that you must suffer as a traitor. They said that you must die.

"Then the King's secretary arose. You know that he has always been your friend. He said that he thought it would be better to spare your life and put out your eyes. He said that this punishment would be severe enough for one who had served the King so well as you have done.

"At this Bolgolam arose in fury. He made a long speech. He pointed out the great expense of feeding you after you should be blinded. He wondered that any lover of his country should wish to save the life of a traitor like yourself.

"But the King still wished to be merciful. He said, 'Put out his eyes, and if that is not punishment enough we will decide what else to do, later on.'

"Flimnap and Bolgolam still kept talking about the expense of keeping you. At last it was decided to lessen the amount of your food each day until you should be starved to death.

“The sentence of putting out your eyes was approved and written down in the King’s great book of records. But the plan of starving you was to be kept a secret.”

Here my visitor paused in his speech, and I had time to thank him for telling me so much. I said, “The King is certainly very kind. But when will the business of blinding and starving begin?”

“In three days,” said he, “the secretary will come and read the sentence which declares that you must lose your sight.

“He will bring twenty surgeons with him, and they are to destroy your eyes by shooting arrows into them.

“The King and his officers hope that you will be very quiet while this is being done, and that you will not give the surgeons any trouble.”

“Most surely I will be as gentle as a lamb,” I said.

But my visitor saw by the twinkle of my eye that I was not serious.

He arose to go. “I have come to you as a friend,” he said. “It is for you to take whatever course you may think best.”

With that, he bade me good-bye. I put him down upon the floor. I opened the door, and he went out as he had come in.

HOW I WAS RECEIVED IN BLEFUSCU



I SAT down and began to think the matter over.
What should I do?

Of course, my life was in no danger.

I need not lose my eyes unless I chose.

For was I not more than a match for the King's
whole army?

With a few stones I could bombard the city, and in
ten minutes could lay it in dust.

But I could not think of doing that. I could not think

of harming the little people among whom I had been living for now nearly eight months.

I would not make the innocent suffer in order to punish my enemies.

It would be better for me to leave the country at once, and so avoid all further trouble.

I therefore made up my mind to visit the Emperor of Blefuscu without any further delay.

The next day I walked across the island to the coast where I had brought in the captured fleet.

A few ships were still lying at anchor there, but the most had sailed to other harbors.

With my spyglass I looked across the channel to the low shores of Blefuscu.

The day was fair, the weather was mild, the tide was low. Everything was right for the journey.

I took off my shoes and stockings, I tucked up my knee-breeches, and waded in. But I might have spared myself the pains of taking so much care of my clothing.

For soon the water was up to my waist, it was up to my shoulders. I held my shoes in my left hand, and waded forward.

When I at length reached the shore of Blefuscu I was a sorry-looking sight. The water was running in streams from my clothing. I was both wet and muddy.

I sat down in the warm sunshine and dried myself as well as I could. I washed the mud from my legs and feet, and put on my shoes and stockings.

Then, with no mirror but the smooth water of the bay, I combed my hair and smoothed my collar. I made myself fit to be seen by the ladies, yes by the Empress herself.

Many thousands of the Blefuscudians were now gathered around me. They welcomed me to their country, they shouted, they danced.

Word was sent into the city that the great Man-Mountain had arrived.

Soon the Emperor and his family with all the high officers of his Court came out to meet me.

They came riding on horses, with banners flying and music playing. They were dressed in most beautiful colors, in purple and scarlet, in blue and gold. It was the prettiest sight I ever saw.

They greeted me with every sign of joy. The Emperor and the Empress, the officers and the ladies, alighted from their horses. If they were at all afraid of me, they certainly did not show their fear.

I lay down on the ground to kiss the hand of the Emperor. I kissed also the hand of the Empress, who was very beautiful indeed.

I told the Emperor that I had come to visit him as he had desired. I told him that I was ready to serve him so far as I might while still being true to my old friend, the King of Lilliput.

I thought it best not to tell him of the trouble I was in, nor to let him know that I was a traitor fleeing from punishment. But I soon found that he had learned all about it.

He welcomed me very kindly. He told me that all he had was mine, and that as long as I stayed in Blefuscu his people would be my servants.

I shall not trouble you with any further account of my reception at the Emperor's court. It was such as would have been expected from so great a prince.

The thing that gave him the most trouble was to provide a place for me to stay.

There was no house in the country that was large enough to hold me; and I could not go into the city for fear of trampling upon the people.

When night came, therefore, I was obliged to lie down in a field outside of the city gates.

A coverlet was given me, which was made by sewing about five hundred of their quilts together. In this I wrapped myself, and with no roof above me but that of the sky, I went to sleep.

HOW I FOUND A BOAT



ON the third day after coming to Blefuscu I took a long walk. I went out to the northeast coast of the island, to see how that part of the country looked.

As I was walking along the shore I saw a strange object floating in the sea. It looked like a small-sized English boat turned upsidedown, and it was not more than half a mile away.

I pulled off my shoes and stockings and waded out until I was about three hundred yards from the shore; for the sea was quite shallow there.

The tide was coming in. I stood and waited; for the object was coming nearer every moment.

Soon I saw that it was indeed a boat. No doubt it had belonged to some ship and had been driven hither by a storm.

I waited for a long time. The tide kept on rising till the water covered my shoulders. But the boat still floated far from the shore.

I was now afraid that it would again be drifted out into the great sea. So I hurried back to dry land. I put on my shoes and stockings. I strode quickly back to the city.

The Emperor was just going out for a ride.

I asked him to lend me twenty of his fastest sailing vessels and three thousand seamen.

He did not stop to ask me why I wanted them. "They are yours," he said. "Do with them what you wish."

Within an hour the fleet was ready. It was commanded by the bravest vice admiral of Blefuscu.

By my orders it sailed around the coast to the spot where I had seen the boat. I went by the shortest road across the country to meet it, and therefore got to the place first.

The boat was a little nearer the shore than when I saw it before.

The ships came up, and I stripped myself and waded in. When I was about three hundred feet from the boat the water suddenly became deep, and I had to swim.

I caught hold of the stern of the boat and hung on to it until the ships came up.

The seamen threw me the end of a strong cord. I passed this through a hole in the prow of the boat and made it fast. The other end was fastened to one of the Blefuscudian ships.

But such a cord would be of little use in towing so heavy a boat. With great labor, therefore, I swam towards the land, pushing the boat before me.

When at last my feet touched the bottom, and the water came only to my armpits, I stopped.

Nine other cords were thrown out to me by the seamen. These I fastened to the boat's prow in the same

manner as the first. Each of these cords was fastened to a separate ship.

The wind was now towards the shore. The ten little ships spread their sails. The great boat floated slowly behind them.

In a short time we reached the shallow beach, and the boat grounded upon the sand.

I waited until the tide began to go out. Then, with the help of two thousand men with ropes and levers, I managed to turn the boat right side up.

It floated. I bailed the water out of it, and moored it to a big rock on the shore.

The Emperor's ships returned into port, and the news of what the Man-Mountain had done was carried to every part of the country.

I worked ten days at making me some oars. You may guess how hard a time I had of it, for the largest tree in Blefuscu was not big enough to make one oar of the proper length.

When I had finished them, I embarked in the boat and paddled it around into the bay nearest the city.

How great was the wonder of the people to behold so big a vessel! They came from every part of the island to see it.

HOW THE KING OF LILLIPUT WAS DISAPPOINTED



I TOLD the Emperor that my good fortune had sent me this boat. I told him that it would carry me to some place whence I could return to my own country. Would he kindly give me leave to sail away in it?

He answered me in a very pretty little speech. He told me how sorry he was to lose so kind a friend who had done so much for the good of his country. Yet he knew how I must long to see my own people and my own kinsmen again, and therefore he would not hinder me. He hoped I would have a pleasant voyage.

I thanked him, and went about getting ready for my departure.

Now the King of Lilliput had not yet learned why I had left his country. He supposed that I still thought him friendly to me, and that I was just paying the Emperor of Blefuscu a short visit.

But when he found that I was staying so long, he became uneasy.

"It is time that the Man-Mountain was taking his medicine," he said. "His visit to our neighbors has already lasted too long. He must return."

So he sent one of his officers to tell the Emperor of Blefuscu how I had been disgraced, and how my punishment was already due.

The officer explained how very merciful the King had been in allowing me to live and to keep everything but my eyes.

"Indeed," he said, "the Man-Mountain should be very grateful that his life has been spared." And then, in the name of the King, he demanded that I should be bound, hand and foot, and sent back to Lilliput to be punished as a traitor.

"Will not the Emperor of Blefuscu see to this? The peace and friendship of the two countries will depend upon his course in this matter."

The Emperor took three days to think the matter over. Then he made answer with many civil excuses.

He said that, as for binding me, hand and foot, his brother the King knew it could not be done.

He said that although I had taken his fleet, yet he was grateful to me for the many kind services I had done him in making peace between the two countries.

“But,” he added, “you shall soon be made happy. For the Man-Mountain has found a big vessel on the shore that will carry him far over the sea. In a few weeks both Lilliput and Blefuscu will be free from so great a burden and danger.”

With this answer the messenger went back to Lilliput. The Emperor then told me all that had happened.

“If it pleases you to stay in Blefuscu,” he said, “I will see that no harm comes to you. You are welcome to remain with us as long as you choose.”

I thanked him, and begged that he would excuse me. I said that since I now had a vessel of my own, it would be better for me to seek my own country.

HOW I SAILED FROM THE LAND OF LITTLE PEOPLE



THE Emperor did not seem to be displeased. In fact, I was afterwards told that he was very glad to be rid of me.

The work on my boat was hurried forward. Five hundred workmen were busy with the sails. These they made by quilting thirteen folds of their strongest linen together.

I made the ropes and cables myself by twisting twenty or thirty of their strongest ropes together.

A great stone that I found by the seashore served very well for an anchor.

The tallow of three hundred cows was given me for greasing the boat and for other uses.

In about a month the work was finished, and I was ready to take my leave.

The Emperor and his family came out of the palace to bid me good-bye.

I lay down on my face to kiss their hands, which they very kindly offered me.

The Emperor presented me with fifty purses, in each of which were two hundred sprugs (their largest gold coin).

He also gave me a picture of himself, which some artist had painted. This I at once put into my left glove, to keep it from being hurt.

There was a great ado also among the officers of the court when they came to bid me good-bye. Many speeches were made, and there were music and march-

ing and much shouting and waving of flags. It would be very tiresome to you if I should tell you of everything that was done.

I stored the boat with as much meat as four hundred cooks could dress and roast.

I also took with me six cows and two bulls alive, with as many woolly sheep. I thought that if I could carry them to England I might make a good profit by them.

To feed these animals on the boat, I took a bundle of hay and a bag of corn.

I should have been glad to take with me a dozen or so of my little Blefuscudian friends, also. But when I spoke of this to the Emperor, he stamped his tiny foot and said, "No." It was the first time I had seen him angry.

At the very last, he sent officers to search my pockets and make sure that I was not carrying away some of his people.

Having thus prepared all things and settled my affairs as well as I could, I stepped into my boat and sailed away.

When I looked back I saw thousands of my tiny friends standing on the shore and waving good-bye to me. It was, indeed, a pleasant sight, and one long to be remembered.

HOW I FOUND THINGS AT HOME



AFTER I had sailed about fifteen miles I came to a small island. It was much like other islands in the ocean; and it did not seem that any person, great or small, was living on it.

I anchored in a pleasant little bay. I ate a hearty supper, and as night was already at hand I lay down in my boat to rest.

I slept well, and was awake before daybreak. I ate my breakfast, and at sunrise set sail again.

My course was towards the northwest.

The sea was smooth, the wind was fair, and I sailed swiftly forward without seeing any other land.

At about three o'clock in the afternoon I saw a sail. It belonged to a ship that was steering to the southwest.

I made signals, but could get no answer; the vessel was too far away.

My boat was a fine sailer, and I soon found that I was gaining on the strange ship.

I made all the sail I could, and in half an hour I was so near that my calls were plainly heard. The ship slackened her speed, and a gun was fired from her deck. I knew that I had been seen.

At about six o'clock my boat was alongside of the ship. My heart leaped up when I learned that she was an English vessel.

I put my cows and sheep into my coat pockets and climbed up to the deck. My little cargo of provisions was hauled on board, and the captain came forward to welcome me.

The vessel was an English trading ship on its way home from Japan. The captain, Mr. John Biddel, was a very civil man and a fine sailor.

There were about fifty men on board, and among them was my old friend, Peter Williams, who had made

two voyages with me on the *Swallow*. You cannot believe how glad I was to meet him.

The captain asked me where I had been. I told him in a few words, but he would not believe me.

He said to Peter Williams, "Your friend has lost his mind. The hardships he has undergone since his shipwreck have made him crazy."

When I overheard this, I took the cows and sheep out of my pocket. "If you doubt my word," I said, "let me show you these in proof of what I have told you."

You should have seen the surprise and wonder of all on board.

I then showed the captain the picture of the Emperor of Blefuscu and also the purses of gold that he had given me. He looked at them in amazement.

"I believe every word of your story," he said.

I made him a present of two purses of two hundred sprugs each, and promised that as soon as we landed in England he should have a cow and a woolly sheep. This pleased him very much.

There is no need that I should weary you with an account of the voyage home. We arrived in England on the 13th of April, 1702.

Only one misfortune had happened to me. The rats on board the ship carried off one of my best sheep.

I found her bones in a hole where they had taken her. They had picked the flesh off of them clean.

The rest of my cattle I got safe ashore. I took them to Greenwich and turned them out to pasture. The grass there is so short and fine that they fed on it and did well.

I afterwards carried them around from place to place and showed them to the rich people for a shilling a sight. In this way I made quite a good deal of money.

But the little animals did not thrive well and I feared that I might lose them. So, at last, I sold them for six hundred pounds of good English money.

When I went to my home in London my wife and children welcomed me with great joy. There were two children, Johnny and Betty, and they never tired of hearing me tell about the little people I had seen.

I ought now to have settled down to a quiet life in London. But I could not be content. Having seen so much of the world I was anxious to see still other lands and seas. But I will say no more.

Here ends the story of my voyage to Lilliput.

PART SECOND
A VOYAGE TO BROBDINGNAG

A VOYAGE TO BROBDINGNAG

HOW I SAILED INTO UNKNOWN SEAS

AFTER my return from Lilliput, life in London seemed very dull. I stayed at home two full months, however, and then went on board the *Adventure*, a merchant ship which was about to sail to the East Indies.

My wife and children wept when they bade me good-bye, and there were some tears in my own eyes. But I promised to bring home many beautiful things, and we parted looking forward to a joyful return.



It was on the 20th day of June, 1702, that the ship *Adventure* set sail on her long voyage.

A pleasant wind drove us southward until we reached the Cape of Good Hope. There the captain fell sick, and we came to anchor in a small bay where there was fresh water.

It was not until the end of March, 1703, that we were ready to leave the place. We then set sail and had a good voyage until we were well past the middle of the Indian Ocean.

For several days there was a perfect calm. The ship lay motionless in the quiet sea, and not a breath of air stirred the sails.

Then suddenly a wind, which the sailors called a monsoon, struck us. It drove the vessel before it with a speed we had never known before.

We were helpless. We could only reef the sails, set the helm hard a-weather, and wait while the ship plunged onward.

It was a fierce storm. The waves ran high. The sea broke strange and dangerous. We knew not what would become of us.

For many days we were driven eastward. When at last the storm ceased, the oldest sailor on board could not tell where we were.

The wind must have carried us more than a thousand miles out of our course. We knew that we were in an unknown sea far beyond the East Indies.

Our ship was staunch, our crew were all in good health. We thought it best to hold on in the same course until we should find land.

We still had plenty of provisions in the hold; but our stock of water was low and we hoped soon to discover some island where we might replenish it.

On the 16th day of June a boy on the topmast cried, "Land! Land!"

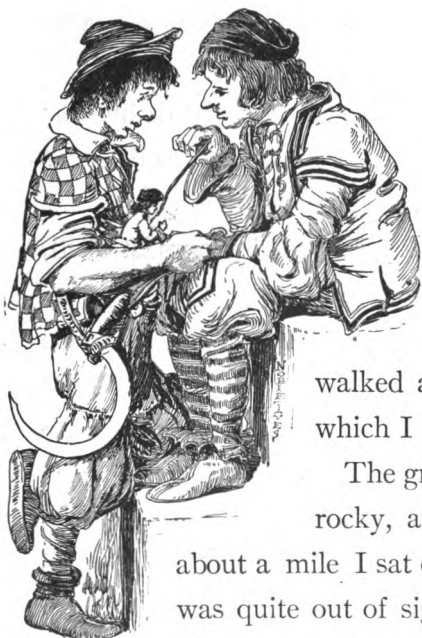
We all looked and were pleased to see in the distance a long, rocky shore with green hills beyond.

Early the next morning we cast anchor about a mile from land. There the water was quite shallow, and we did not dare to sail nearer.

In front of us we could see the mouth of a broad creek with beds of white sand along its banks. But there seemed to be no safe harbor anywhere.

The first thing our captain did was to send out a dozen men in the longboat to visit the shore and see if any fresh water could be found. As I was always anxious to see strange places, I asked leave to go with them.

HOW I FELL INTO STRANGE HANDS



WHEN we came to the shore we saw no river nor spring, but only the shallow creek with sandy banks on both sides. The men went here and there, looking for fresh water, while I walked alone towards some trees which I saw in the distance.

The ground was very rough and rocky, and when I had walked about a mile I sat down to rest. The shore was quite out of sight, but I could hear the men shouting, and supposed they had found water. I listened and thought they were calling me.

I arose and went back toward the mouth of the creek. But when I came in view of the sea again, I saw our men already in the boat and rowing as if for life toward the ship.

I was about to call to them when I saw the cause of

their flight. Not far away, a huge creature, shaped like a man, was pursuing them.

He was wading in the sea and making a great splashing as he went. The water was not above his knees, and I saw that at each stride he gained quite a little on the fleeing boat.

I was so badly frightened that I did not wait to see whether the men would escape. I turned and ran the other way as fast as I could.

Soon I came to the top of a hill from which I had a good view of the country beyond. I was surprised to see fields and gardens and orchards, with now and then a great farmhouse among the trees.

I ran down to the foot of the hill, and there I came to what seemed to be a highroad through a forest. It was really only a footpath through a field of barley.

As I walked onward I could see but little, for the grain on each side was at least forty feet high.

In about an hour I came to the end of the field where there was a hedge. The hedge was at least a hundred and twenty feet high, and the trees beyond it seemed to reach to the very sky.

Here there was a stile where people might pass into the next field. It was of four steps of stone, and each step was six feet high. How could I get over it?

As I was trying to find some gap in the hedge I heard a noise near me. I looked up and saw a great giant coming toward the stile.

He was as tall as a church steeple, and as he strode along he took at least ten yards at a step. I hid myself in the barley and watched him.

He climbed to the top of the stile and sat down. Then he looked back into the next field and called out to someone behind him.

His voice was so heavy and loud that it sounded like thunder.

The next minute I saw seven other big men coming toward him. They had reaping hooks in their hands—great sharp things at least twenty feet long.

These men seemed to be the servants of the other. They were not dressed so well, and they waited always to be told what to do.

They climbed over the stile into the barley field, and each looked at his reaping hook to see that it was sharp.

Then they began to reap the ripe barley where I was hidden.

I tried to run. But the stalks grew so near together that it was hard to squeeze my body between them.

Behind me I heard the dreadful swish of the great

sickles and the steady thump of giant feet. I had never felt so great fear.

Soon I came to a place where the grain had been blown down by the wind. The stalks were tangled and close together. I could not go any farther.

I heard the reapers coming, not a hundred yards behind me. I lay down upon the ground and gave myself up for lost.

Then I thought of my wife and children at home. How foolish I had been to leave them! If I could only be safe in London once more, I would never undertake another voyage.

The foremost reaper was close at hand. At his next step I would be squashed under his great foot or cut in two by his reaping hook.

I shouted with all my might. The big fellow stopped and looked down. He moved his feet carefully and searched around him. At length he spied me.

He was afraid to take hold of me. He looked at me and turned me over with his toe, just as a boy would do with some small creature that might bite him.

At last he ventured to pick me up. He held me between his finger and thumb. He lifted me to within ten feet of his great face, and looked closely to see what kind of animal I might be.

I trembled lest he should let me fall, for I was at least sixty feet from the ground. But he pinched my sides so hard that I could not help groaning with pain. Some tears also fell from my eyes.

He seemed to understand my distress. He put me carefully in the sleeve of his blouse, and ran to show me to his master.

The master, who was indeed a well-to-do farmer, was astonished when he saw me.

He took a piece of straw, about as large as a walking stick, and poked it at me as I lay in the man's sleeve. He blew into my face, and turned me this way and that to get a better view of me.

He called his men around him and asked them if they had ever seen any little creature like me.

At last he placed me softly on the ground on all-fours, and again tickled me with the straw.

I stood up on my feet, much to the delight of the reapers. They sat down in a circle around me and watched to see what I would do.

I pulled off my hat and made a low bow toward the farmer, at which all of them laughed loudly.

Then I fell on my knees and lifted up my hands and eyes, asking for mercy. The farmer smiled and tapped me gently with his finger.

I took a purse of gold out of my pocket and laid it in his hand. He looked at it closely, and turned it over with the point of a pin. But he could not make out what it was.

I then made a sign that he should lay his hand on the ground. When he had done this I took the purse and poured all the gold into his palm.

He seemed puzzled. He wet the tip of his finger upon his tongue, and lifted up one piece after another. But he could not understand what they were.

At length he made me a sign to put the pieces back in the purse. Then he gave me the purse to return to my pocket.

HOW I DINED ON THE FARMER'S TABLE



AFTER a while the farmer sent his men back to their work. He spoke to me, but his voice sounded like the roar of a water mill, and I could not understand what he was saying.

Then he folded his handkerchief in the palm of his hand and placed me on it. He wrapped the ends about me, lest I might fall out, and carried me home to his great house.

"Come and see what a pretty pet I have for you," he cried to his wife.

She came, smiling, but when she saw me sitting in his hand, she screamed. Then she ran back, just as women in England do when they see a mouse.

Her husband assured her that I was harmless; and when she saw how well I behaved she grew braver and came quite near to look at me. In a short time she had lost all her fear and was quite tender with me.

Soon after noon the dinner was brought in. The food was all in a single dish about twenty feet in diameter.

At the table were the farmer and his wife, three children, and an old grandmother. The table itself was about thirty feet high. I was placed on it, not very far from the farmer's wife.

I was very much afraid that I should fall off, and so kept as far as I could from the edge.

The farmer's wife minced a little meat and put it in a shallow dish before me. She also crumbled some bread and dropped it in with the meat.

I bowed to her. Then I took out my knife and fork, which I always carry with me, and began to eat. The children laughed, and all seemed very much amused.

The farmer then made me a sign to come over to his side of the table. I obeyed, but in my haste I stumbled against a crust of bread. I fell flat on my face, but was not hurt at all.

I got up and looked around. Then I took my hat from under my arm, where I had held it for good manners, and waved it in the air.

I shouted, "Hurrah! hurrah! hurrah!" to let them know that I was not harmed by my fall.

This set them all to laughing again, and I went lightly across to the place where the master sat.

The youngest son of the family was sitting by him. He was about ten years old, and full of mischief, as all boys are.

As I came near his place, he took me by one leg and drew me across the table. Then he held me so high in the air that I was terribly frightened.

His father snatched me from him and gave him such a box on the ear as would have knocked down all the houses on our street. Then he ordered the lad to leave the table at once.

I felt very sorry for the boy. I remembered how I, myself, had once delighted to tease kittens, rabbits, and puppy-dogs. I knew that he had acted only in fun, and that he did not mean to hurt me.

So I fell on my knees and made signs to the master that I wished him to pardon his son. He understood me, and the lad was allowed to take his seat again.

Then I went to him and kissed his hand.

The lad and his father were both pleased. They stroked me gently on the head, and spoke kind words to me which I could not understand.

Just then I heard a noise behind me like that of a dozen spinning wheels at work. I looked around and saw the mistress's pet cat sitting in her lap and purring.

Oh, how frightened I was!

The cat was about three times as large as one of our oxen. Her face was very fierce. I ran to the other end of the table, about fifty feet away, and stood there trembling.

My mistress held the cat fast, lest she might spring and seize me with her sharp claws.

There was no danger, however. My master picked me up and placed me within three yards of her nose. She took no notice of me; and when I walked bravely toward her, she turned her head away. She seemed, indeed, to be somewhat afraid of me.

While we were still at the table, three or four dogs came into the room. One of them was a mastiff. He was a huge old fellow about four times the size of an elephant.

Another was a greyhound. He was a splendid animal and taller than the mastiff.

These dogs were very good-natured, and although

they saw me on the table they did not seem to wish to harm me.

The dinner was almost finished when the nurse brought the baby into the room. The child was fat and chubby, and was about a year old.

"See there! See there, baby!" said the mother, pointing to me on the table.

As soon as the child saw me he held out his fat hands for me and began to squall. You might have heard him from one end of London to the other.

The mother wished to humor the child. She took me up and set me within his reach. He seized me around my body and got my head into his mouth.

I thought that my last moment had come. I roared so loudly that the babe was frightened and let go of me.

By good luck I fell into the mother's lap. If I had fallen to the floor my neck would surely have been broken.

A rattle was now given to the babe to quiet him. It was a kind of hollow vessel filled with stones as big as my head.

HOW I FOUGHT WITH FIERCE BEASTS

AFTER dinner the master went out to the fields, leaving me in the care of his wife.

By his voice and the motion of his hands I understood that he wished her to treat me kindly.

I was very tired. I was so sleepy that I could hardly keep my eyes open.

The mistress, seeing this, put me on her own bed. She covered me with a clean white handkerchief. It was larger and coarser than the mainsail of a ship.

I slept about two hours and dreamed that I was at home with my wife and children.

When I awoke and found myself on a great bed twenty yards wide I could not help but weep for grief. The room was three hundred feet long and nearly two hundred feet high. I was so very small that I seemed lost in it.



I would gladly have left the bed. But it was more than twenty feet above the floor and I could not get down.

As I lay there thinking, I heard a rustling among the curtains. I looked and saw two fierce animals, as large as our largest dogs, creeping toward me.

I knew by their shape that they were rats. They crept this way and that over the bedquilt, smelling my tracks.

Then one of them came up almost to my face.

I sprang up and drew my short sword which I always wore at my side. The animal tried to seize me by the collar.

I struck him with the point of my sword. By good luck I pierced his heart. The blood flowed in a great red stream from the wound. The beast leaped up and fell dead at my feet.

The other rat was frightened and ran away. But I followed him to the edge of the bed and gave him a sharp cut on the back.

I measured the tail of the dead rat and found it to be two yards long lacking an inch.

Soon after this my mistress came into the room. She saw me, all bloody, and took me up in her hand.

I pointed to the dead rat and made signs that I was not hurt.

When she saw the beast lying on the clean bedquilt, she turned pale as though frightened. She called the maid and told her what had happened.

The maid took a pair of tongs and lifted the rat from the bed. Then she ran and threw it out of the window.

The mistress carried me gently into another room and set me on a table. I showed her my bloody sword, and when I had wiped it on my coat I returned it to its scabbard.

She spoke some words which I did not understand. But from her tone and manner I knew quite well what they meant. If she could have spoken in English she would have said, "You are a little hero!"

HOW I MADE ONE ENEMY



My mistress had a daughter who was nine years old. She was a pretty child, very gentle in her manner, and skillful with her needle.

It was she who planned a sleeping place for me.

In the evening she brought out her doll's cradle and lined it with soft quilts which she had made.

The cradle was put in a small drawer taken from a washstand. Then the drawer was set on a high swinging shelf, for fear of rats.

This cradle was my bed all the time I stayed with these kind people.

The young girl, as I have said, was very handy with her needle. She made me seven shirts of as fine linen as could be found. True, they were as coarse as burlap, but they answered very well.

She made other clothes for me, also, as I needed them.

She was my schoolmistress and began to teach me the language of her people. When I pointed to any object she would tell me the name of it. Thus I learned many words and was soon able to call for whatever I wished.

She called me "Grildrig," which means, in English, "Little Man."

I soon learned to call her "Glumdalclitch," which is their word for "Little Nurse."

The news soon spread through the country that my master had found a strange animal which looked and acted like a tiny man. People said that it walked upright on two legs, that it was tame and gentle, and that it would come when called.

A neighboring farmer came in one day to see if these stories were true. I was placed upon a table and made to amuse him with my tricks.

I walked back and forth as I was bidden. I drew my sword, and put it up again. I bowed to our visitor and asked him, in his own language, if he was well. I told him he was welcome, and inquired about his family.

He was old and nearsighted. So, in order to see me better he put on his spectacles. He looked so droll

that I could not help laughing. His eyes appeared like two full moons shining through two windows.

The rest of the family joined me in laughing, and we had a merry time. But when the old man learned the cause of it he became very angry.

"He is an unmannerly grildrig," he muttered.

Then as he was about to take his leave he called my master to one side. I could see them whispering together, and I fancied that some mischief was being planned.

In truth, I had so angered the old man by my laughing that he was now my enemy. There was no telling how much harm he might do me.

HOW I EARNED MONEY FOR MY MASTER



THE next morning my little nurse told me everything. She said that her father and mother had promised to give her the grildrig for her own.

Last year they had pretended to give her a lamb, but as soon as it was fat they had sold it.

They were now going to do the same way with the grildrig. They were going to take her pet away.

I asked her to explain still further. She took me in her hand and wept. Then she said that it was all on account of the old neighbor whom I had offended.

He had advised her father to take me to town on the next market day and make money by showing me to the people at a shilling a sight.

Her father had consented and was even then getting ready to carry me away.

With that she burst into tears again and held me so close that I could scarcely breathe. For my own part, I must say that I was not much alarmed at the prospect before me. I would now see more of the world.

The very next market day my master got ready to carry me to town. He put me in a box which was about the size of our bedrooms at home. On one side of the box there was a little door for me to go in and out. At the top and bottom there were a few gimlet holes to let in the air.

My little nurse had put the quilt of her doll's bed into one corner of it for me to lie down on.

My master rode on horseback, holding my box on the saddle before him. To my great joy, my dear Glumdalclitch, his little daughter, was allowed to go with him.

She sat on a pillion behind him, clinging fast to the belt of his blouse.

It was two and twenty miles to the market town, and we made the journey in half an hour.

The horse stepped about forty feet each time he lifted his feet, and he trotted very high. I was terribly shaken up.

At length we stopped at an inn on the outskirts of the town. How glad I was to be lifted down!

My dear little nurse looked into my box to see if I was comfortable. She spoke some consoling words to me, and I was then carried into the house.

After my master had dined he hired a crier to go through the market street and let the people know what a wonderful curiosity he had to show them.

“Ho, everybody!” roared the crier. “Ho, everybody! Come and see! Come and see!

“Come to the sign of the Green Eagle and behold the greatest wonder in all the world!

“Come and see the smallest grildrig ever exhibited in this or any other country.

“He is as finely shaped as any man, although much smaller than a full-grown *splacnuck*.

“He can talk a little, and he has a hundred wonderful tricks to amuse everybody.

“The exhibition has now begun at the Green Eagle. Admission ten cents. Children half price.

“Come one, come all! Come and see the wonder of the age!”

It was in this manner that I was heralded to the throngs of country people at the market.

My master had hired the largest room in the inn. As nearly as I could guess, it was about three hundred feet square.

He placed me on a large table in the middle of the room. My little nurse sat close by the table to take care of me and tell me what to do.

To avoid too great a crowd only thirty people were admitted to the room at a time.

I walked back and forth on the table. The girl asked me questions and I answered them in the language of the people.

I drew my sword and flourished it as the soldiers and fencing masters in England do.

My nurse gave me a straw, and I made believe it was a lance. I went through all the exercises that I had learned when I was a boy.

The people gazed and laughed and said, “Wonderful! wonderful!”

Twelve sets of sightseers came to look at me that afternoon. I was so tired, doing the same foolish things over and over again, that I thought I should die.

Some benches were set around the table to keep me out of everybody's reach, and a large sign was hung where all could see:

DO NOT TEASE THE GRILDRIG

A wicked schoolboy, thinking to have some fun, aimed a hazelnut at my head. Luckily, it missed me, but it put me in a great fright. It was as big as a pumpkin, and if it had hit me, my brains would have been knocked out.

I was glad when my master gave the young rogue a beating and turned him out of the room.

I soon found that I was to have but little rest. My master gave out notice that he would show me again on the next market day. He let it be known also that I might be seen at his home on any day except Sunday. But all who came were obliged to pay a good fee before I was shown to them.

All the country gentlemen for a hundred miles around came to have a look at me. They brought their wives and children and there was not a day that I was not put on exhibition.

I was very profitable to my master. He therefore made up his mind to show me in all the great cities of the kingdom.

So, about the middle of the summer, he bade his wife good-bye and started with me to the capital. We went on horseback, for that was the common way of traveling in the country.

My little nurse rode behind her father, as was her custom. She carried me in a box that was tied with a cord about her waist.

The child had lined the box with the finest cloth she could find, and this was quilted underneath with soft cotton.

She gave me her doll's bed to lie down upon, and supplied me with clean shirts and other linen.

We made easy journeys of about a hundred and fifty miles each day. My nurse often took me out of the box to give me air and show me the country.

We stopped at all the towns on the road, and there my master gathered in quite a store of shillings by showing me to the people.

We crossed six great rivers, any one of them being broader than the Nile or the Amazon. The smallest brooks were as large as the Thames at London.

At length, after journeying ten weeks, we arrived at the capital. It was a fine city and was called *Lorbrul-grud*, which means Pride of the Universe.

We took lodging at a grand hotel not far from the

king's palace. This was a pleasant place, but very noisy.

The next day my master had bills printed, describing the wonderful grildrig which he was about to exhibit. These he caused to be posted up in all parts of the city.

He hired a big hall for the exhibition. In the middle of the hall was a table sixty feet long which was fenced around with pickets to keep any harm from happening to me.

On this table I was shown ten times every day. I was the talk of the town, and all the fashionable people came to see me.

I could now speak the language of the country very well; for my Glumdalclitch had taken great pains to teach me.

She carried a tiny book in her pocket which she used as a kind of prayer book. It was not much larger than our unabridged English dictionary, and the print must have been very trying to her eyes. But out of it she taught me the letters and how to read short sentences.

HOW I BECAME THE QUEEN'S PET



ONE day an officer of the court called upon my master with orders that he must carry me to the King's palace and exhibit me to the Queen and her ladies.

Some of the ladies had already seen me, and they had given wonderful accounts of my beauty, politeness, and good sense.

And so I was taken into the presence of the Queen, who, of course, was very beautiful, as all queens are. She was delighted to see me, and greeted me most kindly.

I fell on my knees and begged the honor of kissing her foot. But she set me on the table and offered me her little finger instead.

I embraced her finger with both my arms, and touched the tip of it with my lips.

The Queen smiled.

Then she asked me about my country and about my travels. I answered as well as I could, but I could see that she did not believe all that I said.

At last she said, "How would you like to come and live here at court?"

I bowed very low and answered, "I am my master's slave and must obey him. But if I could choose for myself I should be proud to devote my life to your Majesty's service."

The Queen was pleased by this speech, and, turning to my master, she asked whether he would sell me, and if so, at what price.

Now the worry and the excitement of the past few months had broken my health. I had grown pale and thin, and my master felt sure that I would not live a month longer.

So he was ready enough to part with me, and he answered that he thought a thousand pieces of gold was not too high a price.

The Queen at once called for the money and ordered him to be paid. I could see that he was sorry he had not asked more. The amount was hardly equal to five thousand dollars of your money.

I then said to the Queen, "Since I am now your Majesty's servant, may I be bold to ask a favor?"

“Tell me what is your wish,” she answered.

“May it please you, then,” said I, “here is the maiden Glumdalclitch. She has kindly cared for me ever since I came to this country. I beg that you will take her into your service, that she may still be my nurse and teacher.”

“With all my heart!” cried the Queen.

The farmer was glad enough that his daughter was to remain at court. As for the girl herself, she was not able to hide her joy.

The Queen, soon afterward, took me in her hand and carried me to the King.

HOW I WAS INSPECTED BY WISE MEN

THE King was a man of great dignity. His face was grave and stern. He was not much given to folly.

He glanced at me as I lay on my breast in the Queen's left hand. He thought that I was



only one of those creeping animals, or brown lizards, which were sometimes kept and petted by fashionable ladies. He frowned as he said to the Queen,—

“Have you, too, become fond of a *splacknuck*?”

The Queen smiled. She said not a word, but set me gently on my feet upon the King's writing desk.

I bowed to him and walked erect before him.

“Ah!” said he in surprise. “That is a fine piece of workmanship. The artist has given it a perfect form, and the machinery within it works well.”

He thought that I was a wax figure moved by clock-work; for such things were common in that country.

Then I bowed again to the King and told him that my name was Lemuel Gulliver, that I was a traveler, and that I was greatly delighted to visit his dominions.

The King was astonished. "Ha!" he cried. "Does it talk? It is indeed a wonderful machine. How many words is it able to say at one winding-up?"

The Queen laughed, and I again bowed humbly to his Majesty.

Then the King asked me several questions about my country and my people and how I had come into his kingdom. I answered him as well as I could, seeing that I did not yet understand the language perfectly.

"Well!" said he, turning to the Queen, "it is a clever trick and surpasses everything that has yet been invented. A pretty toy, I must say; and I suppose you paid a great price for it."

He took hold of me and turned me round, this way and that. He examined my hands, he touched my face. He seemed very much puzzled.

Then he called a servant and sent him to bring in three very learned men who happened at that moment to be waiting in the palace.

They came, and when they saw how I could move freely about and could answer most of the questions that were put to me, they also were puzzled.

“It is very much like a live animal,” said one, who proved to be a schoolmaster. “I observe that its body is perfectly formed, and there is no appearance of wires, or ropes, or pulleys as we should expect to find in a machine.”

“But look at its teeth,” said another, who was a scientist. “They are shaped like those of flesh-eating animals; and yet where could it find anything so weak and small as to become its prey?”

“It does not appear fitted for any mode of life,” said the third wise man, whom I guessed to be a lawyer. “It is not swift of foot, it cannot climb trees, it cannot dig holes in the earth. It has no means of supporting its own life, or of escaping from its enemies.”

“If it is a living animal,” said the schoolmaster, “then we must acknowledge that nature sometimes makes a mistake.”

When I heard this, I begged the King and the wise men to allow me to say a few words.

“Say on,” said the King, leaning his head forward in order to hear my voice more clearly.

Thus encouraged, I made a short speech. I told them that I had come from a country on the other side of the world, where all the men and women were of nearly the same size as myself.

"All the animals there," said I, "and all the trees and houses are in the same proportion. Such being the case, I was able to support life and to defend myself in my own country just as your men are able to get their food and escape danger in your country."

The wise men looked at one another and smiled.

"It is an ingenious machine," said the lawyer, "and is much like a living animal. Its maker was certainly very cunning."

"It is certainly a machine," said the scientist; "for it is impossible that so small an object should have intelligence."

"It can be nothing but a machine," said the school-master. "Our books on natural history give no account of any animal like it."

"Yes it is a machine, or else it is a freak of nature," said they all; and they bowed themselves out of the room.

The King was more puzzled than before; but he kept his thoughts to himself. He took me up gently and handed me to the Queen.

"Take good care of it," he said.

The Queen carried me back to her own apartments and placed me in charge of my faithful little nurse.

HOW I LIVED AT THE KING'S COURT

My little nurse was treated with great kindness at the court. She had a suite of rooms for herself. A governess was appointed to teach her good manners. A maid waited on her at all times. Two other servants kept her room in order. Her only duty was to take care of me.

As was the fashion in those times the Queen kept a dwarf in the palace for the amusement of herself and her friends.

This dwarf was about thirty feet high, and a very overbearing little fellow.

He liked to swagger and look big whenever he passed near me, and he seldom failed to say something about my littleness. This made me angry. I called him brother, and dared him to wrestle with me.

One day, for mere spite, the fellow picked me up by the shoulders and let me drop into a bowl of cream. Then he ran away as fast as he could.



I sank into the cream over head and ears, and if I had not been a good swimmer I might have drowned.

The Queen screamed with fright, and my little nurse came running to help me.

She took me out, and I was put to bed. My clothes were all ruined, but I was not harmed by my strange bath.

By the Queen's orders, the dwarf was soundly whipped. Then he was made to stand up before me and drink the cream into which he had thrown me.

Soon afterwards the Queen gave him away to a lady of high quality, and I never saw him again.

The Queen's own carpenter was ordered to make me a bedchamber. In about three weeks it was finished. I myself had made the plans for it.

It was sixteen feet square and twelve high. It had sash windows, and a door, and two closets, like a London bedroom.

The ceiling was on hinges like a trapdoor. My little nurse lifted it up every day and took out my bed to give it an airing.

The walls were padded with soft cushions on all sides, and the floor was carpeted a foot thick. This was to prevent any accident from the carelessness of those who carried me.

My clothes were made of the finest silks that could be bought. These silks were not much heavier than the woolen blankets at home, and I made out to wear them with comfort.

I had a little table and a set of silver dishes on which my meals were served. They were much smaller than the toy dishes which the children in that country used in their playhouses.

I often dined with the Queen. At such times my table was placed on the top of hers, just at her elbow.

She took great delight in seeing me eat. But I must say that it was not much pleasure to me to observe her at her meals.

She took at one mouthful as much meat as a dozen English farmers could eat. She put a bit of bread between her teeth that was big as a dozen of our loaves. She drank out of a golden goblet that held more than a hogshead.

Her knife was twice as long as an English scythe. The spoons and forks were in the same proportion.

On Wednesday, which was their Sunday, the King and Queen always dined together. The little princes and princesses also sat at the table, and the great officers of the kingdom were sometimes present.

I had become such a favorite at the court that I, too,

was invited to dine with the royal household. My little chair and table were placed at the King's left hand, close by the salt cellar.

"How wonderful it is," said the King, "that so small a being can be gifted with intelligence!" It was plain that he did not believe me to be a machine.

He asked me a great many questions about my own country, and I answered him freely.

I told him about our cities and our trade, about the wars we had fought, and about our laws and government. He was much interested in my account of our great political parties and the manner in which they fought each other at the elections.

He took me gently in his hand and stroked me with his left forefinger. He laughed loud and long, and held me up to the view of all the guests.

"Now tell me, my great man," said he, "to which party do you belong? Are you a Whig or a Tory?"

I held my head up proudly and answered, "May it please your Majesty, I am a Whig."

The King laughed again, even more heartily than before. Then turning to his Prime Minister, who happened to be present, he said,—

"See, my lord, how ridiculous we are! For all those things which we think so noble and glorious are mim-

icked on the other side of the world by little insects like this grildrig.”

The Prime Minister bowed, and made some answer which I did not understand.

The King returned me to my little table by the salt cellar, and then went on with his talk.

“I suppose,” said he, “that these little creatures live and think much as we do.

“They have their titles and their fashions. They have tiny nests and burrows which they call houses.

“They have fine dresses and carriages, and think themselves great. They love, they fight, they push one another about.

“They cheat, they scramble, they boast of their deeds. And, small as they are, they think themselves the greatest and wisest people under the sun.”

He said much else that made me both angry and ashamed.

I never felt myself so small and weak as I did while listening to him.

HOW I TRAVELED THROUGH THE COUNTRY



It was the custom of the King to make frequent visits to the various cities and towns in his dominions.

The Queen often went with him upon these journeys, and she never failed to take me and my little nurse along. At such times I saw and heard many things, and thus learned much about the great country of Brobdingnag, as it is called.

The kingdom itself is about six thousand miles long and from three to five thousand broad. It is bounded

on three sides by the ocean, and on the fourth side by an impassable range of mountains.

What lies on the other side of the mountains, nobody has yet discovered. But if I were allowed to guess, I should say that very likely the continent of North America is there.

There are no seaports in the kingdom, for all around the coast the ocean is too shallow to float vessels of any great size.

In the interior the rivers are broad and deep, and there are many ships sailing upon them.

The country is very thickly settled. There are fifty-one cities and a great number of towns and villages. The streets of the cities are all the time thronged with busy people.

The Queen had a traveling box made for me, in which I was carried when on a journey.

It was smaller than that which I used as a bedroom at the palace. It was square, with a window on each of three sides.

My little nurse usually sat in the Queen's coach, and my traveling box was not too large to be held in her lap. But often when I became tired of the jolting, a servant on horseback would take the box and buckle it upon a cushion in front of him.

It was very pleasant to ride there when the weather was fine and the horse moved gently. From my three windows I could look out over all the country.

This traveling box was so comfortable and handy, that my nurse used it at home when she wished to carry me about the streets or the King's gardens.

Thus, at different times, she took me to all the interesting places in the capital. I saw the shops and the stores, the temples and the great market places.

The King's palace is a huge building about seven miles round. The rooms are more than two hundred feet high, and broad and long in proportion.

The kitchen is a wonderful place. The oven is as broad as the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

If I should tell you about the kitchen grate, the big pots and kettles, and the huge joints of beef which I saw there, you would not believe me.

The King's stables are on the same grand scale. There were about six hundred horses there when I visited them. These horses were from fifty to sixty feet high.

When the King rides out on holidays he is attended by a guard of five hundred horsemen. I shall never forget the first time that I saw him and his guard galloping down the street. It was a splendid sight.

HOW I ESCAPED MANY DANGERS

EVERYTHING was so great and large in that strange country, and I was so small, that I have often wondered how I escaped with my life.

One day my nurse left me alone in the garden while she took a short walk with her governess.

Suddenly a hailstorm came up. The hailstones fell fast and thick. They were about the size of tennis balls, and I was in great danger of having my brains dashed out.

I was indeed knocked to the ground. But I made out to creep under a large leaf where I lay in much pain and fear until the storm was over.

When my nurse found me I was bruised from head to foot. She put me to bed, and it was ten days before I could go out again.



At another time I was in still greater danger in the same garden. I was sitting alone in the shade of a clump of grass, when I heard a strange sound near me. I looked up and saw the gardener's dog coming.

Before I could cry out, he seized me in his mouth. I gave myself up for lost; but the animal had been so well taught that he did not bite me.

He held me gently and ran, wagging his tail, to his master. Then he set me on the ground without having harmed me in the least.

The gardener, who knew me well, was in great fright. He took me up in both his hands and asked if I was hurt. It was a minute or two before I could speak.

Just then my nurse came running to me in alarm. She scolded the gardener sharply for letting his dog come into the garden.

But she was afraid of the Queen's anger, and so never told her of my narrow escape.

At another time, as I was walking in the garden, a hawk that was circling in the air swooped down to catch me. If I had not drawn my sword and given him a sharp cut in the breast he surely would have carried me away.

One day when my nurse was with me, I was walking slowly and eating some cake that had been given to me.

Several small birds flocked around and some of them were bold enough to try to snatch it from my hand.

Suddenly I picked up a cudgel and threw it so well that I hit a linnet squarely on the head. He was stunned by the blow and fell to the ground.

I ran and seized him with both my hands. He was only a little bruised, and he gave me so many hard hits with his wings that I was scarcely able to hold him.

One of the servants, however, came to my help and wrung the bird's neck. The next day, at the Queen's command, I had roast linnet for dinner.

This bird, as nearly as I can remember, was a little larger than an English goose.

HOW I MADE AMUSEMENT FOR A MONKEY



THE greatest danger that ever threatened me was from a monkey which belonged to one of the Queen's cooks. I will tell you about it.

My nurse had locked me up in her room while she went out on a visit. The

weather being warm, she had left all the windows open.

As I was sitting alone and thinking of my poor family in London, I heard something jump in at one of the windows and then scamper across the room.

I was much alarmed, and ran into my box which was quite near. Then, looking out, I saw the monkey frisking and leaping about.

Soon he came near to my box and peeped in at one of the windows. I ran to the farther side of my room and crouched, trembling, in a corner. I was so frightened that I never thought to creep under the bed.

The monkey peeped and grinned and chattered. Then, at last, he saw me. He reached one of his paws in at the door and tried to clutch me with it.

I ran to another corner. I dodged this way and that. But the dreadful paw followed me.

At last, the monkey seized me by the collar of the coat and dragged me out. He took me up in his right forefoot, and held me close to his body.

When I struggled he squeezed me so hard that my breath almost left my body. Then he became gentler and stroked my face softly with the other paw.

Just then there was a slight noise at the chamber door, as if somebody was coming in.

The monkey was alarmed. He leaped up to the window where he had come in, holding me fast with one paw.

Then he climbed up the water pipes to the top of the house, and ran swiftly along the roof.

I heard my little nurse scream. Soon all that part of the palace was in a great uproar. Some of the servants ran for ropes, others ran for ladders.

The monkey sat down on the highest ridge of the building, while hundreds of people gathered in the courtyard below to watch him.

He held me in his paws like a baby. He still had in

his mouth some crumbs which had been given him in the kitchen. These he took in his claws and tried to cram into my mouth.

When I would not eat, he patted me on the head. This made the people laugh, for indeed it must have been a funny sight to everybody but myself.

A few of those below began to throw stones, hoping to drive the monkey down. This frightened me very much, for if a stone had struck me, I would certainly have been killed. Luckily an officer was present and soon put a stop to the throwing.

After what seemed to be a very long time, the ladders were brought. Several men mounted them at different parts of the roof and made their way toward me.

The monkey now saw that he was almost surrounded. So he dropped me on the ridge of the roof and made his escape.

I looked down. I was at least three hundred yards from the ground. If a hard puff of wind should come, or if I should become dizzy, nothing could save me from tumbling down and breaking my neck.

Luckily an honest lad, one of my little nurse's footmen, reached me in good time. He took me in his hands, put me into his pocket, and then slid safely down the waterspout.

I was almost choked with the stuff the monkey had crammed into my mouth. But my dear little nurse picked it out with a pin, and then I felt better.

For several days I was so weak, and my sides were so bruised with the squeezes which the animal had given me, that I could not leave my bed.

But the King and Queen sent every day to inquire after my health, and the Queen visited me several times. As for the monkey, he was killed, and a law was made that no other animal of his kind should ever be kept near the palace.

When I was again able to walk about, the King took great pleasure in laughing at my adventure. He asked how I liked the victuals which the monkey had given me, and whether the fresh air on the roof had not sharpened my appetite.

"What would you have done in England, if a monkey had carried you off in that way?" he asked.

I answered that we had no monkeys in England except a few that were brought in from other countries; and these were so small that I could manage a dozen of them at a time.

"But why didn't you manage this fellow?" he asked, with a smile.

"Indeed," I answered, "if I had only thought of

my sword when he poked his paw into my chamber, I would have made him glad to let me alone."

I spoke this with a firm tone like a man who means to show what great courage there is in him. I held my head up, and put my hand upon the hilt of my sword. I fancied that I looked very brave.

I must have looked very ridiculous, however. For all who saw me burst into a loud laugh, and even the King could not contain himself.

I remember now that I have often seen men make themselves just as foolish in our own country.

Frequently some little fellow without gentility, education, or common sense, pushes himself forward. He jingles his money, he shows his cheek, and he puts on airs that would shame the best men in the country.

Such persons are rather to be laughed at than despised, for they do not know how extremely little they are.

HOW I TALKED BIG WAR TALK

THE King often amused himself by hearing me talk; and nothing pleased me better than to tell him about the greatness of my own country and the wisdom of my own people.



One day I told him of an invention that was made several hundred years ago. It was an invention which changed the history of the world.

He asked me to explain.

"Well, then," I said, "we have a sort of black powder which is very harmless when left alone. But if it is touched by the smallest spark of fire, it will kindle at once into a fierce flame. It will make everything around it fly up into the air with a noise greater than thunder.

"Now, if a little of this powder is rammed into a hollow tube of brass or iron, and then touched with a spark, it will drive out a ball of iron or lead with a force and speed that nothing can withstand."

"That must be a strange invention," said the King; "but how could it change the history of the world?"

"Because it made it easier to carry on war," I answered. "We have learned to use it in battle. Some of the largest balls are discharged with such force as to destroy a whole regiment of soldiers. They can also be made to sink ships with a thousand men on board."

"We often put this powder into large, hollow balls of iron and shoot them into some city we are besieging. When they fall in the city they burst; they rip up the pavements; they tear the houses to pieces; they dash out the brains of everyone who is near."

"Wonderful! wonderful!" said the King.

Then I grew very bold. "I know how to make that powder," I said. "It is cheap. I can also show your workmen how to make the tubes—guns, we call them. With twenty or thirty such guns, of a size proportioned to other things in Brobdingnag, you could do wonders."

"I have no doubt of it," said the King; "but please explain."

"Well," I answered, "you could batter down the

strongest town in the world. If the people of any city should refuse to obey you, you could destroy the entire place in a few hours. That is the way our Kings keep their subjects under control. They also use these guns to protect their possessions from being harmed by their unfriendly neighbors."

"Wonderful! wonderful!" said the King.

Then I became still more bold. "You have been so kind to me," I said, "that I should like to do something to show my gratitude and esteem. Permit me then to show you how to make this powder and these guns; and permit me to organize your men into an army and to teach them how to use these engines of war."

The King's face darkened, and I saw that I had made a mistake.

"I am amazed," he said, "that a little creeping insect like yourself can have such inhuman ideas. How can you think of devising means to kill innocent men, women, and children? What is this thing that you call war, anyhow?"

Then he went on to say that nothing delighted him so much as new discoveries in art or nature. "But I would rather lose half my kingdom," he declared, "than have anything to do with your powder and your tubes and your army for destroying innocent people.

“The man who can make two blades of grass grow where only one grew before, is doing more service to this country, and will deserve more of mankind than all your fighting men and politicians put together.”

After that I never dared say a word about war or about the great power of my country.

But I was surprised, one day, to see the King's militia exercising in a field near the city.

The field was about twenty-five miles square, and there were perhaps thirty thousand men, horse and foot, assembled there.

The horsemen made a grand appearance. At a word of command, they drew their swords and brandished them in the air. Think how surprising was the sight. It was like ten thousand flashes of lightning darting at the same time from every quarter of the sky.

The militia seemed very well trained. But it was made up of farmers and tradesmen. The officers were of the nobility and gentry, and all served without pay. None bore any arms but swords.

I was curious to know why this King, who was opposed to war, still had his trained militia always at hand. I learned that it was a custom which had come down from very ancient times.

Ages ago, there were troubles in the kingdom. Then

the nobles wished for power, the people wished for liberty, and the King wished to have his own way. So there were civil wars.

All this had been ended, long, long before. But the practice of having a large force of militia near the King was still kept up.

HOW I READ THE KING'S BOOKS



THE art of printing has been known in Brobdingnag many ages. But they do not have a great number of books.

The King's library is the largest in the country. It contains about a thousand volumes. I had the liberty to go in and borrow what books I pleased.

The volumes were of tremendous size; and so a kind of wooden frame, like a stepladder, was built to help me in my reading of them.

The frame was about twenty feet high, or nearly the height of an ordinary page. The steps were each fifteen feet long.

When I had a mind to read a book, the volume was opened at the proper place and put up leaning against the wall. Then my stepladder was set up in front of it.

I first mounted to the upper step of the ladder, and this brought my eyes nearly on a level with the first line on the page. I began to read, walking to the right and left some eight or ten paces according to the length of the lines.

When I had gotten a little below the level of my eyes, I moved down a step; and thus I kept on until I reached the bottom of the page. Then I turned the leaf and went up to the top step again. I could easily turn a leaf without help, for it was as thick and stiff as paste-board and not more than twenty feet long.

Some of my happiest days were thus spent in the King's library.

HOW I WENT TO THE SEASHORE



I HAD now been nearly two years in the country. The King and Queen were about to make a visit to the south coast of the kingdom, and it was decided that I and my nurse should go with them.

I was carried in my traveling box, which I have already told you about. I had ordered a hammock swung in it from the four corners at the top, and in this I spent much of my time. It served to break the jolts when a servant carried me before him on horseback.

Under the roof of the box, a hole of a foot square had been cut to give me air in hot weather. I closed this hole at pleasure with a board which could be moved backwards and forwards in a groove.

The King stopped for a week's rest at a palace which

he had a few miles from the seashore. My nurse and I were very tired. I was troubled only with a cold, but the poor girl was so weary that she could not leave her chamber.

I was very anxious to see the ocean, and thought of all sorts of plans for persuading my nurse to take me to the shore. But she was too ill to go with me.

I pretended that I was sick and that the salt air would cure me. Finally, I asked whether a young page of whom I was very fond might not carry me to the shore.

My nurse hesitated. She did not like to have me out of her sight; and yet she was always willing to do anything that would please me.

"We can go to the shore for an early morning walk," I said, "and we will be back for breakfast."

The nurse at last consented.

"Take good care of him," she said to the boy, as she handed him my box. Then she burst into tears, as if she knew she would never see me again.

It was about a half hour's walk from the palace to the shore. I ordered the boy to set the box down on a large rock which overlooked the sea. He did so, and I opened the door and went out.

I walked up and down the shore for several minutes,

gazing wistfully out upon the broad waters. But the wind was sharp, and I was not well.

At length I said to the page, "I think I will go in and take a nap."

"It will do you good," he answered.

I went in, and the boy shut the window close down to keep out the cold. I climbed into my hammock, and as I looked out of the window I saw him strolling among the rocks and looking for birds' eggs.

I lay quite still for some time, and then fell asleep.

HOW I WENT UP AND CAME DOWN AGAIN

I DO not know how long I slept; but I was awakened by a sharp pull upon the ring which was at the top of my box. I felt a jolt as though someone had lifted the box very suddenly and carelessly. I was almost shaken out of my hammock, and for a moment I was dreadfully frightened.



From the motion of the box I knew that it was being raised very high in the air and carried forward with great speed. I looked out of my window. Nothing could be seen but the clouds and the sky. I called as loudly as I could, but nobody answered.

I heard a noise just over my head. It was like the clapping of great wings. Then I understood what had happened to me. An eagle was carrying me away.

When I was a boy at school I read of the strange habit which eagles have with turtles. They carry them high into the air and then drop them upon a rock so as to break their shells.

This eagle was no doubt intending to do the same thing to my box. Having once broken it, he would then pick out my body and devour it.

Soon I noticed that the flutter of the wings was growing much faster. My box was tossed up and down like a swinging signboard on a windy day. I held on to my hammock, but was swung back and forth in a fearful manner.

Then I heard several bangs, as though something had struck the eagle; and, all of a sudden, I felt my box falling through the air.

I held my breath.

At last my fall was stopped with a terrible squash which sounded louder than the cataract of Niagara. For a full minute I was in the dark; then my box began to rise, and I could see daylight once more. But it was a dull light like that which comes through water.

I had fallen into the sea!

The box floated about five feet deep in the water. Every joint of it was so well made, and the doors and windows fitted so tight, that it leaked but very little.

I drew back the slip-board under the roof, to let in the air; then I got out of my hammock.

But why had the eagle let me drop into the sea?

He had no doubt been attacked by two or three others, and had dropped the box in order to defend himself.

Oh, how I wished that I was safe again in the King's palace with my dear little nurse!

The water was beginning to ooze in through several crannies. I set to work to stop them up as well as I could.

But what if a storm should come up? My box would surely be overturned and swallowed by the waves.

Was ever a traveler in so great distress as I was during those dreadful moments?

HOW I GOT OUT OF MY BOX



THERE were two strong staples fixed upon that side of my box which had no window. They were placed

there so that the servant who carried me could put a leather belt through them and buckle it to his waist.

Now, as I was just giving up in despair, I heard a grating noise like that which the belt always made when being passed through the staples. Then the box seemed to be moving along through the water.

“Something must be pulling it,” I thought.

I climbed up as nearly as I could to the slipping-board under the roof. I put my mouth near the hole and called out for help. I called out in all the languages that I knew. But no answer.

Then I fastened my handkerchief to a stick and thrust it out. I waved it back and forth. But still I heard nothing but the rushing of the water against the sides of my strange boat.

An hour must have passed. Then my box seemed to strike against something and stop suddenly. Was it a rock? The box was tossed about so lively that I could not keep my feet.

Soon I heard a noise on the roof. Then I felt as though the box was being slowly hoisted up.

Again I thrust my stick and handkerchief up through the opening. Again I shouted for help.

Then someone called out in English, “If there is anybody in that box, let him speak!”

I answered as well as I could, "I am an Englishman. I am in great distress. Please help me out."

The voice answered, "You are in no danger, for your house is fastened to the ship's side. The carpenter will soon saw a hole in the roof and let you out."

"No use to go to all that trouble," I said. "Let one of the sailors put his finger into the ring at the top of the box and lift it up on deck."

At this I heard a great laughing overhead, and a voice said, "It is a madman."

It had not come into my head that I was now among men of my own size.

But in a few minutes I heard the carpenter with his saw. He sawed a passage about four feet wide in the roof. Then he let down a little ladder and told me to climb out.

In another minute I was on the deck of the ship with the sailors standing around me.

The captain welcomed me very kindly. He led me to his cabin and made me lie down on his own bed.

"You need rest," he said. "Lie there quietly and sleep a while."

HOW I PLEASED THE CAPTAIN WITH A PRESENT

I SLEPT for several hours and when I awoke I was much refreshed. The sun had gone down, and the captain ordered supper at once.

"You have fasted too long," he said. "You must be very hungry."

I agreed with him, for I had tasted nothing for twenty-four hours.

The captain was very kind. As we sat at the table I told him about my sojourn in Brobdingnag and how I had been set adrift in my great wooden box. He smiled as though he believed only a part of my story.

"Now tell me," I said, "how did you happen to discover me floating in the sea?"

"Well, it was this way," he answered. "I was standing on deck at about noon, looking over the sea with my spyglass. I saw something floating far away, which I thought was a ship with her sails furled. We were



making almost directly toward it, and I soon discovered my error.

“ ‘It’s no ship,’ cried my men; ‘it’s a big swimming house!’ And they were all frightened; for what would a house be doing in these remote seas?

“But I laughed at them and ordered the longboat to be launched. I got into the boat with three of the men and rowed out to see what sort of thing it really could be.

“As the weather was calm and the sea very smooth, we rowed around the queer-looking object two or three times. With its windows and its wire lattices it was not unlike a house. But I noticed that on one side of it there were two big iron staples. So I ordered the men to pass a cable through one of these staples; and then we towed the heavy box or house slowly to the ship.

“We brought it alongside of the vessel, and passed another cable through the ring at the top. We would have lifted it up on deck, but it was too big and heavy.”

Then I asked, “Did you see my stick and handkerchief which I put out as a signal?”

“Yes,” he answered, “and we concluded that some unhappy man was imprisoned in the box.”

“Did you see any big birds flying over the sea?” I asked.

"I saw none myself," answered the captain. "But one of the sailors told me that he saw three eagles flying towards the north."

"Very big eagles, I suppose?"

"Well, no. He did not think they were larger than ordinary birds of their kind. But then, they were so very high that he could not well judge of their size."

"Now, Captain," I said, "allow me to ask you another question. How far do you suppose we are from the nearest land?"

"The nearest land," he answered, "must be at least a hundred leagues distant from us."

"That cannot be," I said. "For I had not been more than two hours in the air when I was dropped into the sea."

The captain smiled again. He thought that I had lost my senses.

"I have had a private cabin fitted up for you," he said. "Don't you think you had better go to bed again and take a good rest?"

I told him that I needed no more sleep. Then I told him of all my adventures since I left England.

He listened, and smiled.

"I see you don't believe me," I said. "But if you will have my cabinet taken out of my box and brought

in, I will show you some things which will convince you."

The cabinet was brought in. I had the key in my pocket, and I opened it. Then I showed him the rarities I had collected in Brobdingnag.

I showed him a comb that I had made out of the King's beard. I showed him also some needles and pins a foot long; four wasp stings as big as carpet tacks; and a gold ring which the Queen had one day taken from her little finger and thrown over my head.

I asked him to accept the ring as a token of my gratitude for his kindness; but he politely refused.

I showed him many other rarities at which he wondered greatly. But there was only one object that he would accept as a present. What do you suppose it was?

It was the tooth of one of the Queen's servants. A dentist had pulled it by mistake instead of another which had given the servant a toothache. It was perfectly sound, and about a foot long. The captain accepted it with many thanks—more than such a trifle was worth.

"I believe your wonderful story," he said; "and I hope that when we get back to England you will have it printed in a book."

“Well,” I answered, “there can hardly be any necessity for that. There are already too many books of travel. My story would seem very tame and commonplace by the side of that of some travelers, who pretend to tell you about remote countries and yet perhaps have never set foot outside of their own land.”

However, I thanked him for his good opinion and promised to think of the matter.

HOW I GOT HOME AGAIN



I SHALL not trouble you with the story of our voyage homeward. We had smooth waters and fair winds, and nothing happened that was worth telling about.

On the third day of June, 1706, the good ship came to anchor in the Downs and I once more set foot on English soil.

The captain would not receive a penny for my passage, and I bade him good-bye with many friendly regrets. I borrowed five shillings of him with which to hire a horse and a guide to take me up to London.

As I passed along the road, I could not help thinking how little everything seemed. The trees, the cattle, and the people, all looked so small that I began to think myself in Lilliput again.

I was afraid of trampling on every traveler I met.

"Take care!" I would call out to those on the road. "Look to yourself or I will step on you. Get out of my way!"

Some of them stared at me, thinking I had lost my wits. Indeed, I came near getting one or two broken heads for my impertinence.

Everybody wondered and was alarmed when I spoke. For I had been so long in the habit of talking loud, as though calling to some one at the top of a church steeple, that I could not modulate my voice to suit people of my own size.

When I reached my house, I stooped down lest my head should knock against the top of the door. My wife ran to welcome me with a kiss; and I bent my head to her knees, thinking she could not otherwise reach up to my mouth.

My daughter kneeled to ask my blessing, but I could not see her till she arose. I had been so accustomed to looking at people sixty feet high.

I looked down upon the servants and my friends as if they were pygmies; and I told my wife that she had been too thrifty, for she had starved everybody to nothing. She smiled sadly, as did all the rest; for they believed that I had lost my mind.

It was not long, however, until I came to look at everything rightly; and my family and friends understood the cause of my strange actions.

My wife now declared that I should never go to sea

any more. Of course, she had not the power to hinder me; and I had no sooner settled down at home than I began to long for further adventures.

Nevertheless, I felt that I had already seen more of the world than any other man in England, and I ought to have been pretty well content. So I here conclude the second part of my unfortunate voyages.



This was not the end of my travels. I made two other voyages, one to Laputa and one to the country of the Houyhnhnms; but my adventures in those countries were not such as you children would care to read about. So, I will now bid you a kind good-bye, and stop here. The apologies which follow will be interesting only to your teachers or parents.



JONATHAN SWIFT, DEAN OF ST. PATRICK'S

TO JONATHAN SWIFT, DEAN OF ST. PATRICK'S

VERY REVEREND SIR:

We are told that you were in your sixtieth year when you gave to the world your version of the travels of Lemuel Gulliver. Could you have foreseen that any portion of your work would ever be placed in the hands of children as a school reading book, I imagine that you would have written it quite differently. You would have left out a great many tiresome passages, and you would have made the story brighter and cleaner and altogether more readable.

Your writings, however, were designed for the perusal of men and women only. Too often you dipped your pen in gall, or in the mud of the gutter, and you wrote much that was bitter and coarse and unfit to be read by the young and the innocent. How could you, who were so charming in your personal manners, and so careful in speech, be so coarse and offensive on paper? But, then, your life was full of strange contradictions. In your writings you appear to be a despiser of the human race, and yet we know that the poor of your parish loved you for your acts of kindness and brotherly sympathy. You often wrote carelessly and with little regard for the niceties of expression, and yet we are told that you were a master of every style of English and a lover of the best forms of literature.

Your works, notwithstanding all their faults, were at one time quite in vogue, and they have been accorded a place among the immortal classics of our language. To-day, every student of letters must know something about your life and what you have

written; your books are in all the libraries, and they are printed in all sorts of editions;—and yet who is it that now reads them? There may be some who still peruse your “*Journal to Stella*,” or who derive some sort of pleasure from your covert but savage satires, now long out of date. There may be some who still laugh over your “*Modest Proposal*” concerning the children of the poor in Ireland. But the number of such readers is extremely limited. It is only in certain chapters and passages of your “*Gulliver’s Travels*” that your genius as a writer is still generally acknowledged and admired.

The story of *Gulliver* has, in a certain way, taken so strong a hold of the consciousness of English-speaking people that it has given currency to the well-known adjective, *Lilliputian*; but among the millions who use that word and apply it correctly, how many do you suppose have ever heard of Jonathan Swift or have perused a page of “*Gulliver’s Travels*”?

What your object could have been in writing the account of *Lilliput* and its little people, or of *Brobdingnag* and its giants, we shall probably never guess. Was it to picture allegorically the extreme littleness of every human achievement when measured by the standard of superior intelligence? Was it to exhibit and to throw mud covertly at some *Flinnap* or *Bolgolam* among your political acquaintances? Or was it merely to amuse your own fancy and give entertainment to some of your friends?

Be this as it may, the stories which you relate of tiny people and of giant people, with laws and institutions somewhat like our own, contain much that appeals to the imagination of healthy intellects. Your narrative is, after all, a kind of fairy tale with many odd fancies and quaint conceits; but it is a fairy tale so realistic in its details that we cannot wonder that many of your earliest readers believed it to be a true story of adventure. In its general structure it contains those elements which make it very pleasing to young

people as well as to their elders. All children like to hear of the little king who sat in state on the palm of Gulliver's hand. They are equally pleased to be told about the giant baby who cried to have Gulliver given to him as a toy plaything. But, for reasons already hinted at, these children cannot read your book as you wrote it. To school children especially it is a sealed volume. It must be translated into twentieth-century English before we dare put it in their hands.

Children, to-day, are learning many things which in your time were thought beyond their powers. They are learning to know good literature and to read it; and many of the best stories in our language have been simplified and placed within their reach. Very many of the greatest names in English literature have thus become known to them. And so, it has been asked whether you, too, might not be introduced to them to their pleasure and profit. This suggestion has led to the preparation of the present little volume. I can imagine the scorn with which you would regard such a garbling of your work if you were now living. But you must acknowledge that the garbling is to your advantage: thousands will now read you where not one would otherwise have heard of you, and your name will be familiar in households where formerly it was disregarded or unknown.

I have repeated the first two voyages of Gulliver in the same order in which you related them. I have used your own words and expressions only when they seemed fittest for the purpose. I have tried to preserve your own simple, unadorned style wherever it is adapted to the tastes and needs of young readers. I have abridged and paraphrased, and relieved the story of its tediousness and coarseness. I have endeavored to make it interesting to children, and at the same time to retain somewhat of its humor which is the best part of its Swiftian flavor.

Accept, then, my sincere apologies; for I here present the es-

sence of your famous work as I imagine you would wish it presented if you were preparing it, when in your kindest mood, for the use of children at school. And while I thus introduce our young readers to your immortal Lemuel Gulliver, I regret that I cannot encourage them to seek a more intimate acquaintance with those other works which your genius has made immortal.

J. B.