

into a large hall and hid himself behind a curtain. Now it happened that this very hall was the entrance to the baths; and as soon as the princess passed the gate, she pulled off her veil, thinking she was only surrounded by her own slaves, which permitted Aladdin to see the princess, as well as those beside her. Her uncommon beauty made such an impression on him, that he could think of nothing else for many days afterward, and neglected his meals. At length he could not conceal his love any longer. "Mother," said he, "I love the princess Balroudour to distraction, and you must demand her for me in marriage of the sultan."

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

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

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

Poor Aladdin meanwhile pined almost to death; and when his mother saw him nearly at the last gasp, she promised she would go to the sultan if it would restore him to health. Aladdin, overjoyed at her consent, sent her to borrow a large china dish, which he filled with the finest jewels from his heap, and having tied it

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

When the dish was uncovered, the sultan actually stared with surprise, for he had never before seen jewels of such a size and luster. "Your son," said he, "can be no ordinary person, if he can afford to make such presents as these. Go, bring your son hither, and, if he realizes those ideas we have formed of him, I will bestow on him the hand of my daughter."

Aladdin's mother retired with better spirits than she came, yet still was between hope and fear as to the event. However, she hastened to her son, and related to him all that had passed, at which he was greatly rejoiced.

Aladdin now summoned the genii of the lamp, who transported him invisibly to a fine bath of rose-water. Afterward he was dressed by the hands of the genii in the most sumptuous apparel. A horse, that surpassed the best in the sultan's stables, was provided for him, whose saddle and housings were of pure gold. He had a train of slaves ready, finely