vhat beautiful things were there! who can describe them? Maria spied the prettiest dolls, a tea set, all kinds of nice little furniture, and what eclipsed all the rest, a silk dress tastefully ornamented with gay ribbons, which hung upon a frame before her eyes, so that she could view it on every side. This she ew bay horse, which, true enough, he had found, fastened by its bridle to the table. Dismounting again, he said i ears, who were very elegantly arrayed in red and gold, and carried silver weapons, and rode upon such bright s table, where all kinds of beautiful flowers, and gayly dressed people, and boys and girls at play, were painted s now about to display his Christmas gift, and ran towards a table that stood against the wall, covered by a curta gled with flowers, stood a noble castle, with clear glass windows and golden turrets. A musical clock began to he men and women kept walking back and forth, and the children danced, and the emerald man looked out at his are not good for much, and I care very little about them. No, give me my hussars, who can maneuver backward t and slash, to his heart's content. Maria also had softly stolen away, for she too was soon tired of the sauntering Frederic and Maria were greatly delighted. At her mother's request, the elder sister, Louise, had put on the new d ilent and retired, as if he were waiting quietly for his turn to be noticed. It must be confessed, a great deal could either. A genteel dress went a great way to compensate for these defects, and led to the belief that he must be a ma he wore a woodman's cap; but Maria remembered that Godfather Drosselmeier wore an old shabby cloak and an a r all he would not look half so handsome as he. The longer Maria gazed upon the little man whom she had taken a l pon the little man stretched his mouth wide open, and showed two rows of very white sharp teeth. At her father's biddi h, as I said before, Louise and Fred shall have as much right to his services as you." Maria took him immediately in h se sat down by her, and friend Nutcracker must perform the same service for her too, which he seemed to do quite wil to his sister, and laughed very heartily at the droll little man, who now, since Fred must have a share in the sport, pas

lutcracker's mouth, and his whole under jaw became loose and rickety. "Ah, my poor dear Nutcracker I" said Maria, a on't understand his trade. Give him to me. Maria. He shall crack nuts for me if he loses all his teeth, and his whole sorrowfully he looks at me, and shows me his poor mouth. But you are a hard-hearted fellow; you beat your h ch to me as to you, so let me have him." Maria began to cry bitterly, and rolled up the sick Nutcracker as qu have placed Nutcracker expressly under Maria's protection, and as I see that he is no w greatly in uld require farther duty from one who has been maimed in the service. As a good soldier, he ough to know that t II-temper towards she found among her other Christmas gifts. Contrary to her usual disposition, she showed some parison with Drosselmeier, which she made when her eyes first fell upon Nutcracker, now c ame again into h oudly at this, ar ere was some particular reason for it. WONDERS UPON WONDERS. In the sitting-room of the Docto r's house, just are given to them every year. Louise was quite a little girl when her father had the case made by a sk illful joiner, its shelves than when it was held in the hands. On the upper shelf, which Maria and Fred were una the two lower shelves Maria and Fred filled up as they pleased, but it always happened that id Miss Trutchen aside tz sofa and several tin d it will readily be sup nd night, indeed, was close at hand, and Godfather Drosselmeier had long since gone home, w poor fellows (meaning his hussars) would like to get a little rest, and as long as I am here, not o three things to attend to, and when they are done I will go immediately to bed." Maria was a very g ood and sensib oll and other presents as to forget the lights which burned around the glass case, her mother blew t hem all out. u will not be up in time to-morrow morning," called her mother, as she went up to bed. There he still carried in her arms the wounded Nutcracker, rolled up in her pocket handkerchie Now she laid him c went straight to Maria's heart. "Ah! Nutcracker. Nutcracker, do not be angry at brother l red because he hurt vou so, h

ssure you. Now I will tend you very carefully until you are well and merry again; as to fas not a foolish girl." she said." to be so easily frightened, and to think that a wooden puppet could end Nutcracker in her arms, walked to the glass case, stooped down, and said to her new doll, "Pray Maria, and she took out the bed, laid little Nutcracker down upon it softly, and ge let him hear—prr—prr—pum—pum—or he might—run away in a fright —now cloc ther Drosselmeier, who sat in the owl's place on the top of the clock, and had hun en me so, vou naughty Godfather Drosselmeier!" Just then a wild squeaking and w nd at last placed themselves in line and column, just as Fred was accustomed to p radually leaving her, when all at once there arose a squeaking so terrible and pierc an was necessary to keep thee warm. Alas! poor Maria could not do that now, forsqueaking and squealing terribly. Presently the mouse's body to which these sev —hott—trot—trot it went—alas, straight towards the glass case—straight toward lood stood still in her veins. Half fainting, she tottered backward, when clatter —clat lighter, she heard no more squeaking and squealing, all had become still, and altho ugh she did not dare to again! Close behind her in the glass case a strange bustling and rustling began, and ear and sweet like little bells. "Åh. that is my clear musical clock!" exclaimed Maria io vfully, and turned quic down by each other, and worked and stretched out their arms as if they were making -stupid pack-crack-crack-mouse-back-crick-crack-stupid pack." With thes Chimney-sweepers, two Guitar-players and a drummer cried out, it was easy enough for them to perform this feat, for beside the fine garments of thic k cloth and silk which his legs, for remember, it was almost two feet from the shelf where he stood to the flo or, and his body was a oment when he leaped, Miss Clara had not sprung quickly from the sofa, and caught hy bed willingly to little Nutcracker." But Miss Clara now spoke, as she softly pressed e affray, and certain of conquest. Scaramouch, Harlequin, Chimney-sweepers, Guitar Thus spoke Clara, but Nutcracker demeaned himself very ungraciously, for he ki thy favor and condescension will go with me into the battle and the strife." Clara the n stooped so low that s es backward, laid his hand upon his breast, and said very earnestly,

which Maria had shown towards him, and it was because he had become so partial to le ribbon. But what will now happen? As soon as Nutcracker had leaped out, the squ d high above them all towers the dreadful mouse with seven heads! What will now ha ndows of the glass case trembled and hummed again. Now it rustled and clattered th shelf, where they drew up in fine array. Nutcracker ran up and down, speaking inspiri and chattered with his long chin. "General," he said, earnestly, "I know your courage r long legs, and can gallop yourself tolerably well. I look to see you do your duty.' merrily. Then it stirred again in the glass case—a neighing, and a whinnying, and a s ase. Regiment after regiment now defiled before Nutcracker, with flying colors and w arlike music, and ranged rounded by the cannoneers, and soon bom—bom it went, and Maria could see how the mice suffered by the er. But the greatest damage was done them by a heavy battery that was mounted up on mamma's footstool, v earer, and at last mastered some of the cannon, but then it went prr—prr—and Maria eploying more and more forces, and the little silver shot, which they fired very skillfu Is?" cried Trutchen. Then they fell about each, other's necks, and screamed so terrib um —bom, burum—bom—in the wildest confusion, while the Mouse-King and mice s e fire. Harlequin had made some splendid charges with his cavalry, and covered him Harlequin ordered them to draw off to the left. and in the enthusiasm of command he s not long before a strong body of very ugly mice pushed on with such determined b ment. You know very well, oh my military reader Frederic, that to make such a movem g, where all is still in good order, and where there is yet great hope, both for the gene ng; but what an obstinate resistance did they meet with there! Slowly, as the difficult ave, motley, but noble troops, which were composed of Gardeners, Tyrolese, Bonzes cked men would have wrested the victory from the foe, had not a bold major rushed n a few moments the whole battalion was torn to pieces. Their brave resistance, the refore, was of no avail ose before the glass case. "Let the reserve advance! Harlequin —Scaramouch— Dr ummer—where are vou aces, and caps, and helmets, but they fought around so awkwardly, that they did n ot hit one of the enemy Nutcracker's best officers. Nutcracker, now completely surrounded by the foe, was him into safe quarters, and in wild despair, he cried, " A horse—a horse—a kingd no longer control herself. "Oh, my poor Nutcracker I" she cried, sobbing, and without straight at their king. In an instant, all seemed scattered and dispersed, but Maria felt i lumber, she found herself lying in her own bed, with the sun shining bright and sparklin ake!" Her mother then came to the bedside, and gazed upon her with anxious and inquiring

n boldly flourishing his "bright little blade, leaped like a bird over the edge of the glas

it have the mice to do with Nutcracker? You naughty child, you have caused us a great deal of d a stray mouse may have jumped out and frightened you; at all events, you broke a pane of glass with your elbow, and might have had a stiff arm all your life, or perhaps have bled to death. It was fortunate that I woke about midnight, and nted away myself at the sight. There you lay, and scattered around, were many of Frederic's leaden soldiers, broken Ch the traces of that dreadful battle between the puppets and the mice, and what frightened me so was the danger of poor a sign to the mother, and she said very softly to Maria, "Well, never mind about it, my dear child, the mice are all gone, ria's pulse, and she could hear very plainly that he said something about a fever. She was obliged to remain in bed and the battle, and it seemed to her that she sometimes heard his voice quite plainly, as if in a dream, saying mournfully, ay very well on account of the wound in her arm, and when she tried to read or look at her picture books, a strange glar en usually seated herself by her bedside, and read or related some pretty story to her. One evening she had just finishe ounded Maria." As soon as Maria saw Godfather Drosselmeier in his brown coat, the image of that night in which Nutcr you sat upon the clock, and covered it with your wings, so that it should not strike loud, to scare away the mice. I heard ere sick in bed." Her mother was quite frightened at this, and said, "What is the matter with you, dear Maria?" But Godfa cking — all the day— softly whirr—whirr—whirr—strike kling—klang—strike klang—kling—bing and bang and bang and tired of ticking all the day—bing —bang — and Mouse-King scare away—whirr—whirr—prr—prr.'' Maria stared at God he would have been afraid of him, if her mother had not been present, and if Fred had not slipped in, in the meanwhile, a ber room long ago." But their mother was very serious, and said, "Dear Counsellor, this is very strange sport—what do With this he drew his chair close to her bed, and said, " Do not be angry that I did not pick out the Mouse-King's fourtee owly, and behold it was—Nutcracker with his lost teeth nicely fastened in, and his lame chin well set and sound. Maria Maria, said the Counsellor, "that Nutcracker's figure is none of the finest, neither can his face be called exactly handso Mouserings, and the skillful, Watchmaker?" "Look here, Godfather Drosselmeier," interrupted Fred, "Nutcracker's teet angrily, "you must always meddle and make, you rogue. What is Nutcracker's sword to me? I have cured his wounds, an "have you heard the story of the Princess Pirlipat?" "I hope, dear Counsellor," said the mother, "that your story will no oll and merry." "Begin, begin then, dear Godfather!" cried the children, and the Counsellor began as follows. THE STOR side himself with joy, when he saw his beautiful daughter, as she lay in the cradle. He shouted aloud, danced, jumped a ers, generals, presidents and staff officers jumped about upon one leg like the king, and cried aloud, " No, never!" And i little face seemed made of lilies and roses, delicate white and red; her eyes were of living sparkling azure, and it w wo rows of little pearly teeth, with which two hours after her birth, she bit the high chancellor's finger, as he was exam point authorities are at the present day divided. Well, little Pirlipat bit the high chancellor's finger, and the enraptured I o one knew wherefore, but everybody remarked with surprise, the care with which she watched Pirlipat's cradle. Besid

tch. But what seemed very foolish, and no one could understand the meaning of it, was this; each of these six maids m er made all these arrangements, but I know, and will straightway tell you. It happened that once upon a time many grea rnaments held almost every day. The king, in order to show plainly that he was in no want of gold and silver, was reso hat the court astronomer had predicted the right time for killing, he ordered a great feast of sausages, leaped into his c on his return, he said very affectionately to the queen, "You know, my dear, how extremely fond I am of sausages." The lord treasurer must straightway bring to the kitchen the great golden sausage kettle, and the silver chopping knives an he agreeable odor penetrated even to the royal council chamber, and the king, seized with a sudden transport, could n en sceptre in the kettle, and then his emotion being quieted, returned calmly to the council. The important moment had and reverence for her royal spouse, wished to perform this duty alone. But just as the fat began to fry, a small whimper ell that it was Lady Mouserings who said this. Lady Mouserings had lived these many years in the king's palace. She m queen was a kind and benevolent lady, and although she was not exactly willing to acknowledge Lady Mouserings as come to a little of the fat" Upon this, Lady Mouserings leaped out very quickly and merrily, jumped upon the hearth, and besides her seven sons, rude and forward roques, who all fell at once upon the fat, and the terrified queen could not The king's mathematician being summoned, demonstrated very clearly that there was enough, remaining to season all eys, some in crystal carriages, came in splendid apparel to the sausage-feast. The king received them kindly and gracio alls, it was observed that he grew pale and paler; raised his eyes to heaven; gentle sighs escaped from his bosom, and oth bands to his face, and at last wept and groaned aloud. All sprang up from the table, the royal physician tried in vain remedies, the king seemed to come a little to himself, and stammered out scarce audibly the words, "Too little fat!" The e guilty one at your feet; punish, punish her without mercy. Alas! Lady Mouserings with her seven sons, and aunts and to trial, and confiscate all her estates. But as the king was of opinion that in the meanwhile she might eat up more of meier) engaged, by means of a very singular and deep political scheme, to drive Lady Mouserings and her family fro userings dwelling. Lady Mouserings was much too wise not to see through Drosselmeier's craft, but all her warning ere caught by an iron grating, which fell suddenly down behind them, and were afterwards miserably slaughtered in ueen was very anxious, for she knew the disposition of Lady Mouserings, and was very sure that she would not suf ch he was very fond, and said, "My sons, my cousins and aunts are destroyed; take care queen, that Mousequeen was so frightened that she let the hash fall into the fire; and thus a second time Lady Mouserings spoiled a fa

white frocks and green jackets, dancing to the sound of the music. A ma of the castle, looked about him, and then went in again, Fred, with his arm cried Fred, in a drawling tone, "all that can never be! Listen, Godfather and forward, as I order them, and are not shut up in a house." With this and dancing puppets in the castle; but as she was very amiable and go good-natured once more, and gave the children some nice brown me ress which had been given to her, and she looked most charmingly in d something upon it, which no one had vet remarked. By the marchin not be said in favor of the beauty of his figure, for not only was his r n of taste and good breeding. He wore a hussar's jacket of beautiful pon them. It was laughable to see, that in addition to this handsom gly cap, and still he was a dear, dear godfather. Maria could not he ng Maria put in a nut, and—crack —the man had bitten it in two d at what she heard, and her father said, "Dear er arms, and set him to cracking nuts, but she picked out the s ingly, for he kept smiling all the while very pleasantly. In the m

sed from hand to hand, and thus there was no end to his labo

rustling and a rattling, and now and then a gentle knocking, in the forbidden chambers. Not long ago also he had seen a little dark man, with a large chest under his arm, gliding softly through the entry, but he knew very well that it was nobody but Godfather Drosselmeier. Upon this Maria clapped her little

the question with her. Scolding did not help the matter in the least. Frederic declared, on the other hand, that a bay horse was wanting in his stable, and his troops were very deficient in cavalry, as his Papa very well knew. By this time it had become quite dark. Frederic and Maria sat close together, and

any Christmas Eve before, had so many beautiful things been given to them. A tall Fir tree stood in the middle of the room, covered with gold and silver apples, while sugar almonds, comfits, lemon drops, and every kind of confectionery, hung like buds and blossoms upon all its branches. But the greate beauty about this wonderful tree, was the many little lights that sparkled amid its dark boughs, which like stars illuminated its treasures, or like friendly eyes seemed to invite the children to partake of its blossoms and fruit. The table under the tree shone and flushed with a thousand different colors—al

> yes, and lately you h ad one of your soldier s shot parents g suitable outposts, ha amped for the night. M sselm y serio usly: d why the Coun sellor' enter th e room . there s as you e, clear panes could re to n

> > her mother c

hich hung down

nrolled the handkerchief

be so rough; it is t

and therefor

arefully upon the table, u

e did not mean to

tening in your teeth and setting

ter -rattle - rattle it w

little fine voices were h

ready. And now. Nutci

e words he drew his lit

ill follow you with fidel

the young hero to her plavers. Drummer, are

cked and struggled so

y, lavish not thy favors

s case upon the floor.

her, that he would not

erein, and Maria perceiv

ng words to the troops

could scarcely see what

aded the movement him

ravery, that the footsto

ent is almost the same

ral and the army. Durin

nature of the ground

in the greatest peril. H

om for a horse!" At this

being exactly consc

madly from the enemy

now ever

hey coul

honor, bu

and sc

the ice-

looks, "A

lly, struck

queaked

knows, dear god

e in the blo

gave the

elf vou c

o reel, and lie, f

d a nice ribbon which she wore around her waist, about his poor sho er the hearth, behind the chairs, behind the cupboards and glass case. The great clock whir—red louder and louder, but it could not st strike softly and light." And pum —pum, it went with a dull deadened sound twelve times. Maria began now to tremble with, fear, and g down the skirts of his brown coat just like wings. But she took courage, and cried out loudly, with sobs, " Godfather Drosselmeier, G impering broke out on all sides, and then there was a running, trotting and galloping behi nd the walls, as if a thousand little feet wer mice were all around, peeping out and w ace his soldiers when they went to bat ng, that it seemed as if ice-cold n what Maria now beheld, thou woulds rked its way out, and the great mouse crowned with the seven diadems, squea glass pane which she had struck with her up, awake

She then saw how it flashed and lightene acker raised himself all of a sudden, threw the bedclothes clear off, and lea tle sword, flourished it in the air, and exclaimed, " My loving vassals, friend —we will march with you to battle —to victory or death, the inside of their bodies were made of co osom, "You will not, oh, my lord! sick and all ready drawn up below, and the china figures on the shelf stir and violently with his legs, that Clara was obliged to set him quickly dow he could take him by the arm, raised him gently from his knees, too thus upon me, for—" he stopped, sighed heavily, tore off the ribbo and good readers and receive and wear th e girdle of Miss Clar

eat the march, true va screamed Nutcracke ed that the covers of in which Fred's army " Let no dog of a tru mpeter blow or ere is need now for a quick eye, and skill to seize the prop ereupon Harlequin pu t his long, thin fingers to his mouth, and see! Fred's tamping were heard, fire, how the sugar plu

hich-pum, pum-kept u now happened for the smoke and dust. This however was certain, that into the glass case. Clara and Trutchen ran around in despair. "Must I d d be heard above the mad tumult of the battle. Of the scene that now pres eamed, and now and then the mighty voice of Nutcracker was heard, as he t Fred's hussars were battered by the enemy's artillery, with odious, offensive self, and the cuirassiers and dragoons followed; that is, they all drew off to th ol, cannons, cannoneers and all were overthrown by their headlong charge. Nu thing as to run away, and you are now grieving with me at the disaster which im g the hottest of the fight, large masses of mice cavalry had de-bouched softly fr required —for the edge of the glass case had to be traversed — the china figure Friseurs, Merry-andrews, Cupids, Lions, Tigers, Peacocks, and Apes, fought wi s ranks, and bitten off the head of one of the Chinese emperors, who in falling da to Nutcracker's army, which, once having begun to retreat, retired farther and fart Thus cried Nutcracker, in hopes of new troops which should deploy out of the and at last knocked the cap off their own general's head. The enemies' chasseur e tried to leap over the edge, into the glass case, but found his legs too short. Cl moment two of the enemies' tirailleurs seized him by his wooden

> covered windows into the c hamber. Close beside her s h. dear mother." lisped little Maria, "are all the hateful m it always is, when children are disobedient and do not cut your arm so severely, hat neighbor Wendelstern, not finding you in your bed, got up and went into the si en and women and other pl ina figures, gingerbread m were going to take him pri and little Nutcracker stands safe and sound in the gla take physic, and so it conti nued for some days, althou Maria, dearest lady, what th anks do I not owe you! but that she was obliged to de d the wonderful history of prince Fackardin, when the acker lost the battle agair st the mice, returned vivid how you called out to the Mouse-King. Why did you ery strange faces, and sai ther Drosselmeier made bing—' twill scare away he Mouse-King. Then Owl father Drosselmeier, for h e did not look at all as he u nd interrupted him with lo ud laughter, "Ha, ha! Godf you really mean by it?" "G racious me." replied Dros -but instead, I have in sto n eves —that could not be cried aloud with joy, while her mother smiled, and s e to be hereditary in the fa h vou have fastened in ve rv well, and his chin is no d he may find a sword for at you narrate usually are LIPAT'S mother was the bout up

and knew now that some sense dwel es that the doors were o ust have a cat upon her lap kings and fine princes we out of his royal treasury, a Ived to take a good handful arriage, and went himself to queen knew at once what he meant by that, and it wa sandal wood was made, t d stew-pans. A large fire of With your permission, my I o longer restrain himself now arrived when the fat w as to be chopped into little heard, " Give me a little of ing, whispering voice was ted to the royal family, and et she was very ready to al a true queen and sister. seized with her dainty lit le paws, one piece of fat a drive them away. But as g ood fortune would have it, d with the nicest judgmen the sausages, if distribute usly, and then, adorned wi th crown and sceptre, as b he seemed to undergo gre at inward suffering. But in happy monarch, a deep-se to feel the pulse of the un in despair at his feet, and n the queen threw herself cousins, have eaten up th e fat, and—" with these w engeance upon Lady Mou serings and her family for his sausage fat, the affair wa s placed at last in the hands m the palace forever. He invent ed therefore several curious lit s. all her entreaties were of no a vail, every one of her seven son ith the little remnant of her family the kitchen. Lady Mouserings, w

d the nurse, "she lives —she lives —she lives I" But how great was their terror, when they looked at Pirlipat, and saw what a change had taken place in the sweet beautiful child. Instead of the white and red face with golden locks, a large, ill-shaped head sat upon her thin shriveled body, her azure blue eyes were change ed into green staring ones, and her little mouth had stretched itself from ear to ear. The queen was brought to death's door by grief and sorrow, and it was found necessary to hang the king's library with thick wadded tapestry, for again and again he ran his head against the wall, crying out at every time in la mentable tones, a Ah, me, unhappy monarch!" He might now have seen how much better it would have been to eat his sausages without fat, and to leave Lady Mouserings and her family at peace under the hearth; but Pirlipat's royal father did not think about this, lie laid all the blame upon the court watchm aker and mechanist, Christian Elias Drosselmeier of Nuremburg. He therefore wisely decreed that Drosselmeier should restore the Princess Pirlipat to her former condition within four weeks, or at least find out some certain and infallible method of effecting this, otherwise he should suffer a shameful death under the axe of the executioner. Drosselmeier was not a little terrified, but he had great confidence in his skill and good fortune, and began immediately the first operation which he thought useful. He took little Princess Pirlipat apart with great dexterity, unscrewed her little hands and feet, and carefully exa mined her inward structure; but he found, alas, that the princess would grow uglier as she grew bigger, and knew not what to do or what to advise. He put the princess carefully together again, and sank down by her cradle in despair, for he was not allowed to leave it. The fourth, week had commenced —yes, Thursday had come, when the king looked in with flashing eyes, and shaking his sceptre at him, cried, " Christian Elias Drosselmeier, cure the princess, or thou must die." Drosselmeier began to weep bitterly, but the Princess Pirlipat lay as happy as the day, and cracked nuts. Pirlipat's uncommon appetite for nuts now occurred for the first time to the mechanist, and the fact likewise that she had come into the world with teeth. In truth, immediately after her transformation, she had screamed continually until a nut accidentally came in her way, which she immediately put into her mouth, cracked it, ate the kern el, and then became quite composed. Since that time her nurses found that nothing pleased her so well as to be supplied with nuts. "Oh, sacred instinct of Nature! eternal, inexplicable sympathy of existence!" cried Christian Elias Drosselmeier. "Thou pointest me to the gates of this mystery. I will knock, an d they will open." He begged straightway for permission to speak with the royal astronomer, and was led to his apartment under a strong guard. They embraced with many tears, for they had been warm friends, then retired into a private cabinet, and examined a great many books which treated of instinct, or sympathies, and antipathies, and other mysterious things. Night came on; the astronomer looked at the stars, and with the aid of Drosselmeier, who had great skill in such matters, set up the horoscope of Princess Pirlipat. It was a great deal of trouble, for the lines grew all the while more and more intricate; but at last—what joy!—at last it became clear, that the Princess Pirlipat, in order to be freed from the magic which had deformed her, and to regain her beauty, had nothing to do but to eat the kernel of the nut Crackatuck. Now the nut Crackatuck had such a hard shell, that an eight-and-forty pounder might

s resting upon the table, gazed at the beautiful castle, and the little walking and dancing figures, and then said east change: Fred called out impatiently. " Godfather Drosselmeier, come out this time at the other door, od, she did not wish it to be observed so plainly in her as it was hi her brother Fred. Counsellor Drosselmeier turi ather broad, stout body, out of all proportion to the little, slim legs that carried it, but his head was by far too large t o thinking also, that even if Godfather Drosselmeier were in other respects as well dressed as this little fellow, yet a Maria, since friend Nutcracker is so great a favorite with you, I place him under your particular care and keeping, althou mallest, that the little fellow need not stretch his mouth open so wide, which in truth was not very becoming to him. Lo r. Fred always chose the biggest and hardest nuts, when all at once—crack —crack—it went, and three teeth fell out o hed him out of Fred's hands. "That's a stupid fellow," said Fred. "He wants to be a nutcracker, and has poor teeth—he now came up with Godfather Drosselmeier. The latter, to Maria's great distress, took Fred's part. But their need of it. he wounded are aria collected togeth rocking him in her arms like a little child, while she looked over the beautiful pictures of the new picture-book, whic y laughing at her, and asked again and again how it was that she liked to caress such an ugly little fellow. That singu

father, if you were dressed like my sweet Nutcracker, and had on such bright little boots —who kno

or his part, did not laugh half so heartily this time as he had done more than once before. It is likely

he children had now become somewhat more composed, and turned to the picture books, which lay open on the

gular books, when-kling, ling, kling, ling-the bell was heard again. They knew that Godfather Drosselmeier mained so long concealed, was quickly drawn aside, and what saw the children then? Upon a green meadow.

th feathers in their hats, and long flowing trains, were seen sauntering about in the rooms. In the middle hall,

n the left hand of glass, and arranged all the parts so well together, that everything looked much brighter and handsomer when or od all God the lower o d having installed the n from t he ceiling in t he middle of the chamber, and which diffused a soft, pleasant light, "Come in soon, dear Maria, or ch she had not told her moth er, though she knew not the reason why; and as soon as she found herself alone she went quickly about his wound. Nutcracker was very pale, but still he smiled so kindly and sorrowfully that softly, and examined ussars that has made him a little hard-hearted, but otherwise he is a good fellow, I can a houlders, that Godfather Dross elmeier must do; he understands such things." But Maria was hardly able to finish the se mething out of his eyes like g reen sparkling flashes. Maria was just going to fall into a dreadful fright, when behold, it was presented in the control of t lare of the lamp, which, s tirred by the draught, had flared up, and distorted Nutcracker's features so strangely. "Am ood tempered; therefore he shall be taken good care of as he deserves." With this Mariá took f

ulders, and then drew the bedclothes over him snugly, so that there was nothing to d. She locked the case, and was about to go up to bed, when—listen children—wh rike. Maria turned towards it, and there the large gilt owl that sat on the top, had dr le. This Maria thought was very droll, thou wouldst have jumped as quickly a king loudly, huzzaed in at she thought it would n pieces at her feet. She ed by the clatter of the broken glass, had retreated into their holes. But what was the d that the mice, frighten —arms take —awake—t o the fight —this night—up, up—to the fight." And all the while something rang out c bustle upon the shelves. Many little figures cro s and brothers, will you stand by me in the hard fight?" Straightway three Scaramouches, a Harlequin, four he fiery Nutcracker, who ventured the dangerous leap down from the upper shelf. Al and then rushed after t ow, so that they came d d been cut out of Linde n wood. Yes. Nutcracker would certainly have broken his arms or his legs, if, at the n r, good Clara," sobbed Maria," how I have wronged thee! Thou didst certainly resign ed as you are, share th dangers of the fight. See how your brave vassals assemble themselves, eager for u not, oh, my lord! repose upon the sofa, or from my arms look down upon your victor n upon the floor. He the n, however, dropped gracefully upon one knee, and said, "Fair lady, the recollection k off her bespangled gi rdle, and was about to throw it across his neck, but little Nutcracker stepped two pa nd about his shoulders, pressed it to his lips, hung it across him like a scarf, and th listeners that Nutcrack er, even before he had thus come to life, had felt very sensibly the kindness and love a, although it shone an sparkled so brightly. The true and faithful Nutcracker preferred to wear Maria's sin as heard again. Ah, it is under the large table, that the hateful mice have concealed their countless bands. r very loudly, and imme diately the drummer began to rattle and to roll upon his drum so skillfully, that the vere quartered, were b ursting open, and now the soldiers leaped out, and then down again upon the lowes for he was afraid he sh ould not be heard, and then turned quickly to Harlequin, who had grown a little pale er moment. I entrust to your command all the cavalry and artillery. You do not need a horse, for you have ve and crowed so piercingly, that it sounded as if a hundred shrill trumpets were blowr oons, but above all, his new splendid hussars marched out, and halted close by the across the floor of the chamber. Before them went Fred's cannon rattling along, si themselves in long rows dark, heavy mass, coveri ng them with white powder, and throwing them more than once into shameful diso by which a great many of them fell. The mice, notwithstanding, came nearer and each corps fought with ne greatest animosity, and the victory was for a long time doubtful. The mice kept

e left, and galloped hom e. By this step the battery upon the footstool was exposed to great danger, and it was tcracker seemed a little disturbed at this, and gave orders that the right wing should make a retreating mov pends over the army of Maria's darling Nutcracker. But turn your eyes from this scene, and view the left wir nd amid loud and hideous squeaking had thrown themselves with fury upon the left s had advanced, hea ded by two Chinese emperors, and formed themselves into a hollow square. These th coolness, courage, and determination. By their Spartan bravery this battalion of shed to the ground tw o Bonzes and a Cupid. Through this gap the enemy penetrated into the square, and her, and at every step with diminished numbers, until the unfortunate Nutcracker halted with a little band glass-case. And there actually came forth a few brown men and women, made of sweet thorn, with golden before long, so that they tumbled over, and carried with them to the ground some ara and Trutchen lay e ach in a deep swoon, —they could not help him—hussars, dragoons sprang merril antle, and the Mouse (ing, squeaking from his seven throats, leaped in triumph towards him. Maria could ous of what she did. asped her left shoe, and threw it with all her strength into the thickest of the mice fore, and sank in a swoon to the floor. THE SICKNESS. When Maria woke out of her deep and deathlike m she soon recognized, however, as the Surgeon Wendelstern. He said softly, and is the good Nutcracker safe?" "Do not talk such foolish stuff." replied her mother: "v nts. You played last night with your dolls until it was very late. You became sleepy, probably, a who has just taken the piece of glass out of the wound, declares that it came very near cutting a vein, in which case tting-room. There you lay in a swoon upon the floor, close by the glass case, the blood flowing in a stream. I almost fa aythings, and not far off your left shoe." "Ah! dear mother, dear mother," exclaimed Maria, interrupting her, "those wer soner. Then I threw my shoe at the mice, and after that I don't know what happened." Surgeon Wendelstern here mad ss case." Doctor Stahlbaum now entered the chamber, and spoke for a while with Surgeon Wendelstern, then he felt gh except a slight pain in her arm, she felt quite well and comfortable. She knew little Nutcracker had escaped safe fro you can do still are for me." Maria tried to think what it could be, but in vain; nothing occurred to her. She could not p sist. The time, during the day, always seemed very long to her, and she waited impatiently for evening, as her mother door opened, and Godfather Drosselmeier entered, saying, "I must see now for myself how it goes with the sick and ly to her mind, and she cried out involuntarily, "Oh Godfather Drosselmeier, you have been very naughty; I saw you as not come to help us; me, and the poor Nutcracker? It is all your fault, naughty Godfather Drosselmeier, that I must be d in a grating, monotonous tone, "Pendulum must whirr—whirr—whirr—this way—that way—clock will strike —tired of in swift flight comes at dead of night. Pendulum must whirr—whirr—Clock will strike kling—klang—this way—that way

sually did, but appeared much uglier, and he moved his right arm backward and forward, like a puppet pulled by wires.

ather Drosselmeier," cried Fred, "you are to-day too droll again —you act just like my Harlequin that I threw into the lum

selmeier, laughing, "have you forgotten then my pretty watch maker's song? I always sing it to suck patients as Maria

'You see now, Maria, that Godfather Drosselmeier meant well by your little Nutcracker."

re for you a very agreeable surprise." The Counsellor with these words put his hand in his pocket, drew something out

mily, I will now relate to you, if you will listen. Or perhaps you know already the story of the Princess Pirlipat and the La

uth V said Clara." Have I so well preserved myself for this, to perish here in these w

y orders, and he was seen striding along through the battalions in the hottest of t

an have no idea, good reader. It went prr-prf-puff-piff-clitter-clatter -bom, b

e dreadful spots in their red jackets, for which reason they would not move forward

longer lame and rickety, but why has lie no sword? why have you not put on his sword?" "Ah," replied the Counsello t's true," said Fred, "he is a brave fellow, and will know how to get one." "Tell me then, Maria," continued the Counsell By no means, dearest madam," replied Drosselmeier, "on the contrary, what I have this time the honor to relate is d wife of a king, and therefore a queen, and Pirlipat straightway at the moment of her birth a true princess. The king was b again and again, "Ha! ha! was there ever anything seen more beautiful than my little Pirlipat?" Thereupon all the minis s so, in truth, for as long as the world has been standing, a lovelier child was never born, than this very Princess Pirlip as charming to see how her little locks curled in bright golden ringlets. Besides this, Pirlipat had brought into the world res too closely, so that he screamed out, "Oh, Gemini!" Others assert that he screamed out, "Oh, Crickee!" but on this in Pirlipat's beautiful body. As has been said, all were delighted. The queen alone was very anxious and uneasy, and not counting the two nurses, who always remained close by the cradle, six maids night after night sat in the room to v t through, and thus keep it continually purring. It is impossible that you, dear children, can guess why Pirlipat's mot Pirlipat's father, on which occasion much splendor was displayed, the theatres were crowded, balls were given, and to nd expend it in a suitable manner. Therefore as soon as he had been privately informed by the overseer of the kitchen and princes to take a little soup with him, in order to enjoy the agreeable surprise which he had prepared for them. U s this, that she should take upon herself, as she had often done before, the useful occupation of making sausages. The he queen put on her damask apron, and soon the sweet smell of the sausage meat began to steam up out of the kettle ords," he cried, and leaped up, ran as fast as he could into the kitchen, embraced the queen, stirred a little with his go pieces, and browned gently in the silver stew-pans. The maids of honor now retired, for the queen, out of true devotion the fat, sister —I should like my part of the feast—I too am a queen —give me a little of the fat." The queen knew very that she was herself a queen in the kingdom of Mousalia, for which reason she held a great court under the hearth. T low her a little banquet on this great holiday. She answered, therefore, " Come out, then,' Lady Mouserings, you are w fter the other as the queen reached it to her. But now, all the cousins and aunts of the Lady Mouserings came running the chief maid of honor came in at this moment, and chased away the intruding guests, so that a little of the fat was le t and skill. Drums and trumpets were now heard without, and all the invited potentates and princes, some on white pal ecame the monarch of the land, seated himself at the head of the table. Already in the first course, that of the sausage the second course, which consisted of the long sausages, he sank back upon his throne, sobbing and moaning, held ated, unknown torture appeared to agitate him. At last, after much anxiety, and after the application of some very strong sobbed out, "Oh, my poor, unhappy, royal husband! Alas, how great must be the suffering which you endure! But see t ords she fell right over backwards in a swoon. Then the king, full of rage, leaped up and cried out, "Chief maid of honor having eaten up the fat of his sausages. The privy council was called, and it was resolved to summon Lady of the royal watchmaker and mechanist. This man (whose name was the same as mine, to wit, Christian Elias Dross

s, and many of her cousins and aunts, went into Drosselmeier's machines, and, as they tried to snap away the fat, y , forsook the dreadful place. Grief, despair, revenge filled her bosom. The court reveled in joy at this event, but the fer the death of her sons to go un avenged. In fact, Lady Mouserings appeared one day, when the queen was in the kitchen, preparing a haslet hash for her royal husband, a dish of wh es not bite thy little princess in two—take good care." With this she disappeared, and was not seen again; but t vorite dish for the king, at which he was very angry. "But this, dear children," said Drosselmeier, "is enough for tonig ht—the rest at another time." Maria, who had her own thoughts about this story, begged Godfather Drosselmeier very hard to go on, but she could not prevail upon him. He rose, saying, "Too much at once is bad for the health—the rest to-morrow." As the Counsellor was just stepping out of the room, Fred called out, "Tell me, Godfather Drosselmeier, is it then really true that you invented mousetraps?" "How can you ask such a silly question?" said his mother, but the Counsellor smiled mysteriously, and said in an under tone, "Am I a skillful watchmaker, and yet not able to invent a mousetrap?" THE STOR YOF THE HARD NUT CONTINUED. You know now, children, commenced Counsellor Drosselmeier, on the following evening, why the queen took such care in guarding the beautiful Princess Pirlipat. Was it not to be feared that Lady Mouserings would execute her threat, that she would come again, and bite the little princess to death? Drosselmeier's machines were not the least protection against the wise and prudent Lady Mouserings, but the court astronomer, who was at the same time private star-gazer and fortune-teller to his majesty, declared it to be his opinion that the family of Baron Purr would be able to keep Lady Mouserings from the cradle. Most of that name were secretaries of legation at court, with little to do, though always at hand for an embassy to a foreign power, but they must now render them selves useful at home. And thus it came that each of the waiting-women must hold a son of that family upon her lap, and by continual and attentive fondling, lighten the severe public duties which fell to their lot. Late one night the two chief nurses who sat close "by the cradle, started up out of a deep sleep. All around lay in quiet slumber —no purring —the stillness of the grave! even the death-watch could be e heard ticking! and what was the terror of the two chief waiting-women, as they just saw before them a large, dreadful mouse, which stood erect upon its hind feet, and had laid its ugly head close against the face of the princess. With a cry of terror they jumped up; all awoke, but in a moment Lady Mouseri ngs (for the great mouse by Pirlipat's cradle was no one but she) ran as fast as she could to the corner of the chamber. The secretaries of legation leaped after her, but too late—she had disappeared through a hole in the chamber floor. Little Pirlipat awoke at the noise and wept bitterly. " Thank heaven," crie