

brothers failed not to come at night ; but one of them, as he approached a vessel full of silver, was immediately taken in the snare. As he found it impossible to make his escape, he called to his brother, who stood without, and earnestly intreated him to come in, and cut off his head, that so he might save his own life, and prevent the discovery of their clandestine theft. The brother, consulting his own safety, and despairing of his, complied with his request ; and, putting the stone in its place again, took the head away with him. Early next morning, the king, going in to see the event of his project, was so surprised to find a man taken in the snare without a head, that he hastened out in the greatest confusion ; from which he no sooner recovered, than he directed that the body should be hung on the outside of the wall, and exposed to public view ; charging the guard, appointed to take care of it, to make a narrow inspection into the countenances of the spectators, and in whomsoever they perceived signs of sorrow and mourning, to bring such persons into his presence. The mother of the deceased, hearing that the body was exposed in this manner, distracted with grief, and upbraiding her surviving son, threatened, if he did not procure her his brother's body, and bring it home, to let the king know who had robbed his treasury. The young man did his utmost to bring her to some temper, by remonstrating to her the impracticability of her request, but to no purpose. Finding her, therefore, unalterable in her resolution, he gratified her, in the end, by the following subtil invention : loading his asses with skins of wine, he drove them towards the place where the body hung up. Having reached the guard, he privately opened some of the skins ; and, striking himself, in token of despair, as soon as the wine began to run out, he counterfeited the trouble and consternation of a person utterly undone : in the mean time, the soldiers upon duty strove to save as much of the liquor as they could for themselves ; which he seeing, reviled them with the most bitter reproaches, for the pleasure they took in his misfortune, instead of offering to assist him : but they using him kindly, he pretended to be pacified, and, leading his asses out of the way, feigned to be very busy in securing the remainder of his wine ; in the mean time, the guards stood round him, and he, pretending to be pleased with their jokes and humour, at last consented to give them a skin of the wine ; and they, in return for so great a favour, pressed him to stay, and take part of it with them : he complied, and when the skin was emptied, he gave them another ; so that, by excessive drinking, the whole guard was overcome, and fell into a deep sleep : then watching his opportunity, in the dead of the night, he took down the body, laid it across an ass, and shaving the right cheek of each of the soldiers, by way of derision, carried it home to his mother. The news of this was matter of new wonder to the king, who, to find out the person who had done it, bethought him of the following expedient : he invited suitors to visit his daughter, promising her in marriage to the man she should approve of and who by his gallant exploits should appear to be most worthy of her. And he instructed her to ask every one who addressed her, an account of the most ingenious action he had ever managed, and of the most wicked crime he had ever committed. The young man being apprised of this, resolved to perplex the king a little farther. With this view, he got the arm of a dead body, yet fresh, and, taking it under his cloak, went in to the king's daughter : she examined him, in

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