

They doubt it.

So next day, as arranged, the wedding comes off, and, as was expected, the bride was instantly spirited away by the terrible ogre. Very calmly the prince returns to his lodging and relates what has happened, and informs them that he intends next day to go over and fetch her home.

Next day he prepares for the expedition. He has got an ugly customer to deal with, but he is well equipped. He puts on his magical coat and shoes, and grasps the sword. He then wishes himself at the entrance of the magician's den. He is there in a jiffy; but there is no door. The bluff is high, smooth, and presents not the slightest appearance of an entrance; but the magical sword can cut an entrance or find the door. With this weapon he makes a mark on the face of the rock down the two sides, across the top and across the bottom of what would be about the size of a door. Out swings the massive door, and displays a spacious apartment filled with women, who are seated in rows on each side of the room. Among them he recognizes his own bride, by whose side the magician is seated, leaning his head on her bosom. The prince walks up and down the apartment unseen, as he is shielded by his magical coat.

Suddenly the magician starts up and, exclaiming, "There is a wedding in the town," is off in a flash, and instantly returns bringing another captive, to be added to the number already there. But during his brief absence the prince has made himself known to his wife and directed her to ask the magician where he hides his "soul." As soon as he has returned and seated himself again she puts the question to him—

"Where do you keep your soul?"

"Well, now," he replied, "you are the first one that ever asked me that question, and I will tell you. I keep it locked up in seven iron boxes, one within another, and my soul in the seventh, and all at the bottom of the sea, exactly in a line with this cave."

All this was repeated in the hearing of the prince, who stood by, all unseen, and to whom the information was exceedingly

interesting. He has now learned where the boxes are, but every one is locked, and he must obtain the *keys*, or he cannot reach the magician's "seat of life;" and unless this is reached even his magic sword would be used in vain. Magic would be pitted against magic, and the ogre would remain unscathed. So, waiting till he had darted off again, he says to his wife; "Ask him where he keeps the keys." This question is put on his return, and the prince learns that they too lie at the bottom of the sea, and in a direct line between the cave and iron boxes.

Having obtained this information our hero is now ready to commence operations. So, stepping out into the open air, he takes out charm number one, given him by his "whale" brother-in-law, and warms it between his hands. Instantly his friend is at his side, who enquires what is wanted? He is informed of what has happened and requested to find and fetch the iron boxes and the keys. This is done, and they begin to open the boxes. They proceed without any difficulty or mishap until they reach the seventh box. In attempting to unlock this, they break the key and are baffled.

Now then charm number two comes in play. The small lock of wool is produced and warmed, and instantly the second brother-in-law is at his side, who enquires what the matter is. He too is informed of the state of affairs, and he is requested to "butt" open the box. He accordingly goes into it with all his might, and soon the iron yields, the box flies open and, whizz! away flies the magician's soul and escapes.

Now, then, the powers of the "grey goose" magician, the brother-in-law number three, come in play. The feather is warmed, the grey goose is on hand, and directed to give chase to the fugitive spirit and bring it back. This feat is soon performed, and now all hands commence operations on the life of the terrible ogre. They pay no attention to his body. That is in the cave; but they hold the vital spirit outside, and pierce and hack and pound it with the magical sword. And they succeed.

Meanwhile the monster in his cave gives signs of feebleness and decay. He slowly