

**SHORT STORIES
FOR SHORT PEOPLE**

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Short stories for short people by Alicia Aspinwall & Marie L. Danforth

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ALICIA ASPINWALL & MARIE L. DANFORTH

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BY

ALICIA ASPINWALL

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY

MARIE L. DANFORTH



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TO GARDNER
"THE YOUNGEST MEMBER OF THE HOUSE"
THIS BOOK
IS LOVINGLY DEDICATED
BY HIS MOTHER

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THESE stories are bits of that pure imagination of which the best types are to be found in Grimm's Collection of German Household Tales, and of which the line was so well continued by Hans Andersen. Many have tried to follow in the same path ; but none, it seems to me, have done it so well as Mrs. Aspinwall. Her stories have that pure impossibility in which children delight, that fresh vigor which carries attention along, and that suggestion which even children vaguely feel of deeper meanings. "The Quickly-Growing Squash," for instance, is to the child who hears it, as it doubtless was to the author, only a bit of frolic extravaganza ; but if it had been written—as it well might have been—by Tieck or Hoffmann or Musäus, it would have had ere now a dozen

theories and elucidations advanced by wise commentators. It would have been held to express systematically the growth of a sin or of a suspicion or of a superstition, or of any one of half a dozen other things of which the author never dreamed. That is the test of a fantasy-piece, that it has something for all; it rouses a whole swarm of analogies and suggestions, yielding a moral when the author sought only innocent fun and the delights of narration. The lover of childhood and the lover of creative imagination may alike find pleasure in this book, and it should have ten thousand readers.

THOMAS WENTWORTH HIGGINSON

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.





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