

**GERMAN HOUSEHOLD
TALES, TOLD
AGAIN IN ENGLISH**

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German Household Tales, Told Again in English by Jacob Grimm & Wilhelm Grimm

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JACOB GRIMM & WILHELM GRIMM

**GERMAN HOUSEHOLD
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The Riverside Literature Series

GERMAN HOUSEHOLD TALES

BY
JACOB AND WILHELM GRIMM

TOLD AGAIN IN ENGLISH



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INTRODUCTION.

GRIMM'S TALES is the well-known title of a great number of German wonder stories, and the names of Grimm and Andersen are very often coupled, for their stories have much in common. Andersen was a Dane who had grown up out of the peasant life, and when he came to tell stories, told over again some of the folk-stories which he had heard as a child ; but many more, and those the most characteristic, were of his own invention. Grimm was the name of two German brothers, Jacob Ludwig Karl Grimm and Wilhelm Karl Grimm, who were born, the elder in 1785, the younger in 1786. They were sons of a lawyer, who died when they were quite young, and they were trained in the schools and universities of Germany. Wilhelm, the younger, died in 1859, and Jacob in 1863, so that their lives were nearly equal. They were constantly together and worked in the same scholarly pursuits. They were both most cheerful men, who enjoyed life, and were especially fond of having flowers about them. Their studies they carried on together, though Jacob was the more learned, and made great contribu-

tions to the science of language, while Wilhelm was more artistic in his tastes and was a capital story-teller.

This combination of powers was a happy one for the task which they set themselves of gathering the common stories of the German peasants, and throwing them into the form of written tales. They were thirteen years in picking up the stories which they printed in their first volume in 1812, and three years later they added a second volume. They drew them from a variety of sources. They lived in the province of Hesse-Cassel, from which, by the way, the Hessians came who fought in the British army during the American war for independence; and it was from the peasants in this province that they derived a great many tales. The best friend they had was the wife of a cow-herd, a woman of about fifty, who had a genius for story-telling. In the preface to a later edition, when the authors were describing their task, they said: "Her memory kept a firm hold of all sagas. She herself knew that this gift was not granted to every one, and that there were many who could remember nothing connectedly. She told her stories thoughtfully, accurately, and with wonderful vividness, and evidently had a delight in doing it. First, she related them from beginning to end, and then, if required, repeated them more slowly, so that after some practice it