

**ALSATIANA, OR, THE
FAITHFUL
DAUGHTER: A FAIRY
TALE OF THE PRESENT DAY**

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Alsationa, Or, The Faithful Daughter: A Fairy Tale of the Present Day by Émile Wendling

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ÉMILE WENDLING

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ALSATIANA,
OR
THE FAITHFUL DAUGHTER.

A Fairy Tale of the Present Day.

BY

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"LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF AN UNFORTUNATE AUTHOR," ETC.

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This fairy tale may be looked upon as a popular introduction to a more serious work, upon which the Author has been engaged during the last two years, and which will appear in August next. It is entitled

THE WESTERN QUESTION:

ALSACE-LORRAINE,

On the 200th anniversary of the taking of Strasbourg by Louis XIV., September 30th, 1881.

AN APPEAL TO THE ENGLISH NATION.

The Author trusts that the present story will awaken among English readers some feeling of interest in the fate and sympathy with the troubles of his native country, beautiful Alsace.

Durham, December 24th, 1880.

Alsaticana, or the Faithful Daughter.

A FAIRY TALE OF THE PRESENT DAY.

THERE was once upon a time a very rich and beautiful Queen, called *Bellafrancia*, who reigned over one of the finest kingdoms in the world, and was honoured and respected by all the other kings and queens. She had many sons and daughters who were greatly attached to her, but none of them loved her more tenderly than the beautiful *Alsaticana*.

Alsaticana was the youngest and fairest of her children: her hair was long and of a chestnut colour, and her eyes were as blue as the deep waters of a mountain lake. She was tall, and strong, and brave, and withal so sweet and gentle, that her brothers and sisters worshipped her, and her mother called her the darling of her heart.

Now Queen *Bellafrancia* had a Minister whose name was *Penolano*. He was a clever man who, by his craftiness, had gained great influence over her, for *Penolano* was as wicked as he was clever.

And, one evening, when the Queen felt very tired, after having spent the whole day in managing the government of her states, he cast a spell upon her which the famous magician *Tanaso* had taught him. Under the influence of this spell, the Queen sank into a deep slumber, and remained enchanted for eighteen years. And the wicked *Penolano* put guards in front of her chamber, and commanded them to arrest and put into prison all those who would come near to awaken her. Thus many who tried to force an entrance, were arrested and thrown into deep dungeons, where they never saw the light of day, and where their only companions were slimy reptiles that abounded in their dreary cells.

While the Queen was asleep, the wicked Minister, instead of wisely governing her kingdom, thought of nothing but amusements, and festivities, and great shows, for which he took much gold out of the Queen's coffers. He neglected the education of the young princes and princesses, and gave them no learned masters to teach them how to become great and wise rulers. Thus they grew up in ignorance, and many of them became frivolous, silly, and conceited, and imitated the wicked ways of the cunning Minister.

And *Penolano* not only neglected them, and squandered *Bellafrancia's* vast wealth, but he also quarrelled with the neighbouring kings and queens, and was haughty, and meddling, and insolent; so that they all hated him, and lost their respect for Queen *Bellafrancia*, for they knew not that all this time she lay spell-bound in her castle.

Now, among the kings whose lands were nearest to *Bellafrancia's*, there was one called King *Red-Beard*. He had red bushy hair, a red face, and his long thick beard fell down below his belt. He was fat and heavy, for he liked much to eat and drink, and would swallow four glasses of beer at breakfast, and six at dinner, and ten every evening. When he was not drinking and smoking, he either looked after his big soldiers, of whom he was very proud, or studied for many hours a large black book in which a learned scholar explained things of which he knew nothing, to people who could not understand him. And when he was tired of reading, and drinking, and looking at his big soldiers, he would say his prayers, and say them very loud, for he liked to be known as a pious man.

Now King *Red-Beard* had a Minister, named *Helmowill*, who, after serving him for a great