

**FAIRY TALES, THEIR  
ORIGIN AND MEANING;  
WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF  
DWELLERS IN FAIRYLAND**

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Fairy tales, their origin and meaning: with some account of dwellers in Fairyland by John Thackray Bunce

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**JOHN THACKRAY BUNCE**

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ORIGIN AND MEANING;  
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DWELLERS IN FAIRYLAND**



FAIRY TALES.

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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

THE substance of this volume was delivered as a course of Christmas Holiday Lectures, in 1877, at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, of which the author was then the senior Vice-president. It was found that both the subject and the matter interested young people; and it was therefore thought that, revised and extended, the Lectures might not prove unacceptable in the form of a Book. The volume does not pretend to scientific method, or to complete treatment of the subject. Its aim is a very modest one: to furnish an inducement rather than a formal introduction to the study of Folk Lore; a study which, when once begun, the reader will pursue, with unflagging interest, in such works as the various

writings of Mr. Max-Müller ; the " Mythology of the Aryan Nations," by Mr. Cox ; Mr. Ralston's " Russian Folk Tales ;" Mr. Kelly's " Curiosities of Indo-European Folk Lore ;" the Introduction to Mr. Campbell's " Popular Tales of the West Highlands," and other publications, both English and German, bearing upon the same subject. In the hope that his labour may serve this purpose, the author ventures to ask for an indulgent rather than a critical reception of this little volume.

BIRMINGHAM,

*September, 1878.*



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# FAIRY TALES: THEIR ORIGIN AND MEANING.

## CHAPTER I.

### ORIGIN OF FAIRY STORIES.

WE are going into Fairy Land for a little while, to see what we can find there to amuse and instruct us this Christmas time. Does anybody know the way? There are no maps or guide-books, and the places we meet with in our workaday world do not seem like the homes of the Fairies. Yet we have only to put on our Wishing Caps, and we can get into Fairy Land in a moment. The house-walls fade away, the winter sky brightens, the sun shines out, the weather grows warm and pleasant; flowers spring up, great trees cast a friendly shade, streams murmur cheerfully over their