

**POPULAR LEGENDS OF BRITTANY.  
AN ENGLISH VERSION OF  
SONVESTRE'S "FOYER BRETON"  
FROM A GERMAN TRANSLATION  
BY HEINRICH BODE**

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Popular legends of Brittany. An English version of Sonvestre's "Foyer Breton" from a German translation by Heinrich Bode by Anonymous

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SONVESTRE'S "FOYER BRETON,"

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A GERMAN TRANSLATION BY HEINRICH BODE.

BY A LADY.

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## PREFACE

BY

THE GERMAN TRANSLATOR.\*

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GOODY MÄHRCHEN † is a dear, familiar guest, much beloved by old and young, because she tells things in a very pretty way, and she knows about things that mortals have never dreamed of. She makes long journeys, and roams all about the world, to bring home something

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\* The *Märchen* or legends of which I have here made a collection are taken from Sonvestre's "Foyer Breton" (Fireside Tales of Brittany). As I consider it of no small importance that stories of this kind, which have a very wide circle of readers among the young folks, should be so framed as to be free from every thing positively outlandish, in trying to narrate them after our own country fashion, I have found it necessary to make several, and some quite considerable alterations, for which I hardly feel authorized to make Sonvestre answerable, though the original plan of each story has been adhered to as closely as its adaptation to our readers would allow, and we can assure those readers, that in these alterations the stories themselves have lost nothing of their distinctive national character. — NOTE BY THE GERMAN TRANSLATOR

† *Märchen* is a German word, signifying *tale* or *legend*.



all my dearly loved nephews and nieces, with the hope that it may have as much power to amuse and entertain them, as it has had to beguile many a weary hour of feeble health, while accompanying the German translator through enchanted forests, wizard caves, and magic circles.

## PREFACE

BY

THE ENGLISH TRANSLATOR.



“DEAR aunt, do read us another story out of the little German book!” is a petition delivered in a most coaxing way, that often meets my ear, and one that is not easily resisted. But it is a little laborious to *read* a foreign language into one’s mother-tongue, unless one is gifted with more fluency than myself, and therefore, though I have always found my little hungry auditors extremely willing to overlook all defects in these improvised translations, I have sometimes put them off by promising to write out these favorite tales of theirs into plain English, and get them printed, so that they may have the satisfaction of reading them themselves. And now, according to my promise, I dedicate this my translation, imperfect and ill executed as it may be, to

new, which she knows how to dish up after her own fashion; and then, when the grandmother says, "Mährchen has come again, and has brought some very pretty stories," the children all jump for joy, and crowd round to hear what she has to say.

Mährchen *has* now come again, and this time she has come a long, *long* way, — she has come from Brittany, where many clever, honest people live, and it is so far off, that you have to go all through France to get to it.\* Well, she has brought home some stories, — stories that I assure you are well worth listening to, and that nobody is ever tired of hearing. I have written them down for you, so that you may read them yourselves, or coax grandmother to read them to you; but once for all, I charge you, give good heed, for Mährchen often teaches many a wise lesson, and if you pay attention to what she says, you will not have to learn the same things out of other books, which would be much harder to read, and would not give you half so much pleasure.

Now then, read, and pay strict attention.

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\* It will be remembered that this is addressed to German children.