

Castle Niedeck.

The Gigantic toy.

In that time when in the German countries still unnatural beings were in abundance, a giant race had their seat on the castle Niedeck. Although this castle is since long in ruins yet the sayings of the people testify of their and their former inhabitants extraordinary size and strength. It was these, so says the legend, immense giants who kept aloof from the impulsive men, and good-natured, hurt nobody. It happened once, that the castle-owner's little daughter in promenading, wandered further than usual. The young giantess traversed the adjacent woods and arrived at a wide plain on which fields and meadows extended themselves. She perceived a peasant with horse and plough which she had never seen! Admiringly she regarded the man for a time, how he ploughed the field, and full of childlike pleasure at the sight, she clapped her hands so that the mountains echoed, and frightened by the noisy sound the good husbandman stopped, and his horse fell. „What a fine toy“ cried the giant child and before the husbandman knew whence the words came, the girl had hurried to him, snatched up horse and plough as easily as of they were

Tyrolian carved-work, and covered them up in her apron. Joyfully she hastened with them to her father at the castle, „look here“ said she, beside herself with joy, and placed the peasant with the put-to horse on the table before the giant „look here“ what charming elegant figures I have found, a living toy. Oh! that shall make me more pleasure than all my dolls, which are only of leather and immoveable. But the father said seriously, my little daughter „Do you know what you have done, and what you have brought with you?“ You have taken the peasant from the field, torn him from his work, he the most useful of all the children of men, exerts himself in heat, wind, and rain, that the fields are productive. Therefore quickly carry the man back with horse and plough, and once for all remark: „He who practices injurious play and will on the diligent peasant, draws Heaven's curse on him.“ And at the father's command, the giant's daughter carried the husbandman with plough and horse to the field whence she had taken them.
