



TALES OF THE FAIRIES AND OF THE GHOST WORLD

JEREMIAH CURTIN

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**TALES OF THE FAIRIES
AND OF
THE GHOST WORLD**

COLLECTED FROM ORAL TRADITION IN SOUTH-WEST MUNSTER

**BY
JEREMIAH CURTIN**

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wouldn't have built in the passage, and wouldn't be where he is to-day. This is all the cure I can give you: Go home, get a tub of water, and bathe John nine nights with the one water, one night after another. When you have that done you'll not throw out the water till after midnight, when all are in bed. Take care that no one of your family is out of the house that night."

When John's wife was in the road coming home a man of the neighbours overtook her and they walked on together. There was a height within one mile of the house; from this they had a fine view of Cokeley's house and land--the time was after sunset--and to their surprise they saw John himself walking around in the garden as well and strong as ever, but when the wife came home she found him in bed, sick and miserable.

"Were you out since morning, John?" asked she.

He only began to scold and look bitter at her. "How could a dead man leave the bed?" said he.

She prepared the tub of water in the corner of the house that day, and was bathing him for nine nights in the same water. She had a son fifteen or sixteen years of age who wasn't at home. He spent a night out very often, for he was working for people. She didn't think the boy would come that time, it was so late (about one o'clock in the morning). She began to throw out the water with a gallon.⁵ There was a big flag⁶ outside the door; she threw the water on that. She had all out but the last gallon, when who should come but the son. When he stepped on the flag he was thrown heels over head and his leg broken. There was no doctor nearer than Killarney. When the mother went there next day she met the gossip.

"Well," said he, "you are worse now than ever. Didn't I tell you not to throw out that water when there was any one away from the house?"

"He slept out so often," said the mother, "that I was sure he wouldn't come that night."

⁵ A vessel for dipping water; it holds a few quarts.

⁶ A flagstone.

