

"If she saw what I have heard this day she would laugh most certainly."

The servant said to her, "Stay here; I will tell her so at once."

They call the old woman in, and she told them that she had seen an old woman leaping and bounding from one ditch to another, and saying all the time:

"Houpa, houpa, Marie Kirikitoun; nobody will remember my name."

When this young lady heard that, she was merry at once, and writes down this name at once. She recompensed highly the old woman, and she was very happy; and when the other old woman came she knew her name.*

ESTEFANELLA HIRIGARAY.

THE DEVIL'S AGE.

THERE was a gentleman and lady who were very poor. This man used to sit sadly at a cross-roads. There came to him a gentleman, who asked: "Why are you so sad?"

"Because I have not wherewith to live."

He said to him, "I will give you as much money as you like, if at such a time you tell the age of the devil."

Our man goes off happy. He leads a merry life with his wife, for they wanted for nothing. They lived at a great rate. But time went on, and *the* time was approaching. This man recollected that he had not busied himself at all about the devil's age. He became pensive. His wife asked him what was the matter with him then? why is he not happy? that they wanted for nothing; why is he so sad? He tells her how it is that he got rich, and what compact he had made with a gentleman. His wife said to him:

"If you have nothing but that, it is nothing at all."

* This is a very widely spread legend. Cf. Patrañas, "What Ana saw in the Sunbeam;" "Duffy and the Devil," in Hunt's "Popular Romances of the West of England," p. 239; also Kennedy's "Idle Girl and her Aunts," which is very close to the Spanish story; and compare the references subjoined to the translation of the Irish legend in Brueyre's "Contes Populaires de la Grande Bretagne," p. 159.

Get into a barrel of honey, and when you come out of it get into another barrel of feathers, and dressed like that go to the cross-roads and wait for the devil there. You will put yourself on all fours, and walk backwards and forwards, and go between his legs, and walk all round him."

The man does as his wife had told him. The devil comes, and draws back (when he sees him); and our man goes up quite close to the devil. The devil being frightened said to him:

"I am so many years old, and I have never seen any animal like that, and such a frightful one."*

Our man had heard enough. He went off home at full speed, and told his wife that they would want for nothing, that he had done as she had told him, just as if she had been a witch, and that he was no longer afraid of the devil. They lived rich and happily, and if they lived well, they died well too.

FRANCHUN BELTZARRI.

THE FAIRY-QUEEN GODMOTHER.†

THERE were, like many others in the world, a man and a woman over-burthened with children, and very poor. The woman no more knew what to do. She said that she would go and beg. She goes off, far, far, far away, and she arrives at the city of the fairies. After she had told them how many children she had, all give her a great many alms—she was laden with them.

The queen of the fairies gives her besides twenty pounds in gold, and says to her:

"If you will give me your child when you are confined—you shall bring it up in your law—I will give you a great deal of money, if you will do that."

She told her that the godmother was already decided

* Cf. "The Brewery of Egg-shells," in Croker's "Fairy Legends of the South of Ireland," pp. 32-36.

† This tale, or at least this version of it, with the names Rose and Bellarose, must come from the French.