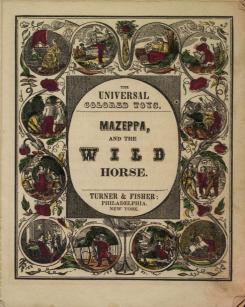




MAZEPPA BOUND ON THE WILD HORSE.

During the dreadful hostilities between the Poles and the Tartars, the Poles in a bloody conflict, seized and bore off the Tartar Prince, Mazeppa, when he was but a child, and took him to their own country, where he was raised by a Polish Count, who named him Cassimer, and made him a Page to his daughter; as they grew up, they became in love with each other; but she was betrothed by her father to a Polish Nobleman; but on the day of their nuptial ceremony, Cassimer in the disguise of a knight, challenged his rival to combat, and dreadfully wounded him; he fled, but was pursued, and captured. The lady's father ordered him to be stripped naked, and bound to the back of a terrible wild horse, as a punishment for his offence.





THE PEARPIL LEAP OF MAZEPPA.

THE FEARFUL LEAP OF MAZEPPA.

With Cassimer in this awful and helpless condition, the horse was set at liberty, to fly wherever his wild fury might lead him. Away, like lightning darted the fearful steed; and enraged at the burthen upon his back, he reared, rolled, and galloped through the tangled woods to remove it, while the unfortunate Cassimer with his limbs torn and bleeding, saw nothing but increasing horror and death around him, bounding over rock and river; the horse came to a fearful and rushing torrent which Cassimer hoped would bear both to destruction; for on its shore he saw flocks of wolves hovering near, in all their greedy fierceness; but the powerful animal at one dreadful leap, cleared the roaring stream, and still dashed wildly on.





WAZEPPA, TALLS AMOVE THE WILD HORSES

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MAZEPPA FALLS AMONG THE WILD HORSES.

But new and increasing dangers crossed their horrid way. A flock, or herd of wild horses came galloping and velling around them, as if, with their wide extended jaws, they would tear him to pieces. Still onward rushed the horse, followed by his wild companions, snorting and shaking their flowing manes in horrid fury, till passing the rocky borders of Poland, they reached the plains of Tartary; poor Cassimer, faint from the loss of blood from his torn limbs, knew nothing, or saw nothing, except in his fainting trance of herror; while the horse, growing weak with leaping over rocks, fallen trees, and swimming rapid streams, now staggered beneath his burthen, and sank down exhausted in the midst of his wild followers, who fled in fear.





MAKEPPA, RECEASED BY INTENDET STRANGERS

MAZEPPA, RELEASED BY FRIENDLY STRANGERS.

In this state of insensibility lay both rider and horse for many hours, till providentially, some Tartar Shepherds beheld the helpless and awful condition of Cassimer; they severed his blood soaked cords, and bathed his hot temples with the cool water of the fountain, the sad spectacle soon brought crowds of Tartars to the spot, among them came their aged and hospitable King, to give his royal succour to the hapless stranger; when by the jewelled star upon his breast, and his family features, he found in the recovering youth, his long lost son, the Prince Mazeppa! Soon after, Mazeppa mounted the wild horse, which became his favourite, attacked the castle of the Polish Count, rescued the young lady, and both long reigned King and Queen of Tartary.









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