

英美文学名著导读详注本 之十三

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Lewis Carroll 路易斯·卡罗尔



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前 言

1867年,英国出版了一本叫做《爱丽丝漫游奇境记》(*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*)的书,作者是路易斯·卡罗尔(Lewis Carroll, 1832-1898)。其实这位卡罗尔并非职业作家,而是牛津大学基督堂学院的数学讲师。甚至连他的真名也并非“路易斯·卡罗尔”,而叫查尔斯·勒特威奇·道奇逊(Charles Lutwidge Dodgson),只不过他的数学著作不如他的文学作品出名,因此人们大多记住了写童话的卡罗尔,而忘了研究数学的道奇逊。

道奇逊早年就学于拉格比公学,后考入牛津大学基督堂学院。1854年毕业后即留在母校教授数学,直至1891年。他终生未娶,孑然一身,却热爱孩子,在牛津有许多与他亲近的小朋友。他患有口吃,与成人交谈固然不能畅所欲言,但小朋友们却总能为他信口讲出的童话所吸引。这本有关爱丽丝的奇遇最早就是他为一个名叫爱丽丝·利德尔的小姑娘编的。在友人的怂恿下,他将这个故事写成书后出版。1871年又有《爱丽丝漫游奇境记》的姐妹篇《镜中世界》(*Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There*)问世。于是,数学教师道奇逊便以童话作家卡罗尔闻名了。据说当时的维多利亚女王读了爱丽丝的故事,非常赞赏,差人留意这位作者,他以后写的书一出版就立刻呈上。谁知此后女王看到的却是一部乏味的代数方程式论。

卡罗尔成名后,由于性情孤僻,加上天生口吃不善与人交往,有人竟相信他是个神经不正常的人。有一次他出门坐在火车上,看到邻座一位10多岁的女孩子正津津有味地读他的《爱丽丝漫游奇境记》,他见她读得高兴,便和她交谈起来。恰好女孩的母亲也读过此书,卡罗尔也与她讨论起该书及其作者,她竟硬说作者是一个精神不正常的人,卡罗尔问她是真的吗,她坚决地回答道:“真的。”卡罗尔尴尬万分,但没有责备她,后来他还寄赠一部《镜中世界》给那女孩子。

这本《爱丽丝漫游奇境记》记录了一个小女孩的夏日闲梦。爱丽丝在百无聊赖的下午看见一只衣冠楚楚的兔子自言自语地急急赶路,好奇心促使她尾随兔子而去,不料掉进了一个深洞,由此跌入一个莫名其妙的世界。经过漫长的下落,她来到一间空空如也的大厅,那里的每样东西似乎都会使她的身体缩小或变大。这不断变化的结果是一,一块平常的蛋糕反令她觉得不可思议,而她自己终于也说不准自己是谁了。此时已缩小的爱丽丝被先前落的泪冲走,共同遇险的还有一只

“委屈”的老鼠(爱丽丝总不忘向它炫耀自己的宠物猫如何机敏勇猛)和一群稀奇古怪的飞禽走兽。这时兔子再次出现,爱丽丝阴差阳错地进了兔子家里,又遭受了一番“变身”之苦。当她好不容易逃脱,并从一只慵懒的毛毛虫那里打听到控制身材变化的秘密后,便亲见了一连串的奇情异事。在公爵夫人的寓所,夫人抱着猪脸娃娃高唱可笑的催眠曲,厨子尽情地往汤里倒胡椒,往公爵夫人和孩子身上掷锅碗瓢盆,柴郡猫笑容诡秘,神出鬼没;在三月兔家门前,“疯癫”的三月兔、帽匠和睡鼠所举行的茶会永无止境,依靠移动座位使之不断延续,原来“时间”已被谋杀,它们也只得永远停留在喝茶的时间。离开无聊的“疯茶会”,爱丽丝闯入了皇后的花园。残暴任性的皇后无时无刻不在下达死刑宣判,却从不曾有哪个囚犯因此被杀。爱丽丝应邀参加皇后的槌球比赛。这是一场毫无规则可言的比赛,无论是火烈鸟充当的球杆,还是刺猬充当的球,或是士兵充当的球门,都会自行其事,仿佛都在与爱丽丝作对。而皇后也从未停止过砍头的判决,使参赛者几乎悉数遭到拘禁,球场上只剩下皇帝、皇后和爱丽丝三人了。于是,爱丽丝被打发随鹰头狮身怪拜访假海龟,听它讲述无聊的“伤心史”,观摩了一段滑稽的龙虾四对舞。法庭开庭的消息打断了假海龟的无病呻吟,爱丽丝目睹了一次由怯懦而狡黠的皇帝主持的荒唐审判,最后她在与皇后及其手下的冲突中,跳出梦境而返回了现实世界。

这篇故事之所以深受一代代孩子们的喜爱,成为儿童文学的经典之作,其中重要的原因就是它不同于当时大多数儿童文学作品以教诲为目的,而是不折不扣的游戏之作。儿童读物自诞生之日起,便以教育为宗旨,因为儿童被认为是不完善的人,必须加以严格的约束与引导,他们没有也不必拥有属于自己的“文学”。孩子们不是被迫在严肃的教训书籍前正襟危坐,就是偶尔在成人文学世界中偷取些读书的愉悦。在17、18世纪的英国,写给孩子们的故事——比如詹韦(James Janeway)的《献给孩子们的礼物》(*A Token for Children*) (1671)——都有浓重的说教意味。倒是班扬的《天路历程》、笛福的《鲁滨逊漂流记》、斯威夫特的《格列佛游记》等成人文学作品权且满足了孩子们的阅读渴望。随着18世纪启蒙运动的兴起,才出现了真正意义上的儿童文学。纽伯里(J. Newbery)的寓言故事、博尔曼(T. Boreman)的《巨人的故事》(*Gigantick Histories*) (1740)、戴(T. Day)的《桑福德和默顿的故事》(*The History of Sandford and Merton*) (1783-1789),以及进入19世纪以后埃奇沃思(M. Edgeworth)的《道德故事》(*Moral Tales*) (1801)、舍伍德夫人(Mrs. Sherwood)的《菲尔柴尔德一家》(*The History of Fairchild Family*) (1818-1847)等等,都是当时儿童文学的代表作品。不过它们仍是为教育的文学,是成人从自己的教育目的出发为儿童设计的文学。19世纪50年代以后,贴近儿童心理特

点、纯粹供儿童娱乐的文学作品越来越多。马耶特(F. Marryat)的航海冒险、亨蒂(G. A. Henty)的战争小说、休斯(T. Hughes)的学校生活、扬(C. M. Yonge)的家庭故事,为孩子们争相传阅。儿童文学的经典作品也在这一时期涌现,如:金斯利(C. Kingsley)的《水孩儿,写给陆上孩儿的童话》(*The Water-Babies, A Fairy Tale for a Land-Baby*) (1863)、杰弗里斯(R. Jefferies)的《贝维斯的故事》(*Bevis, The Story of a Boy*) (1882)、斯蒂文森(R. L. Stevenson)的《金银岛》(*Treasure Island*) (1883)等,当然,还有卡罗尔的《爱丽丝漫游奇境记》。

人们往往将是否“有意义”作为评判儿童文学作品的标准之一。实际上,所谓的“有意义”就是作品能够给予孩子们有关成人世界的教诲,帮助他们脱离儿童的思维方式而尽早获得成人的社会经验。那么,爱丽丝的游历是否有“意义”呢?并没有。爱丽丝并未在游历中获得任何有关成长的重要启迪,她从梦境中返回后也并未“成熟”。相反,在故事的结尾,在爱丽丝姐姐的梦中,这个小妹妹即使已长大成人,也永远保存着童年的单纯与天真。而从这个故事本身来看,如果谁刻意在其中寻找“意义”的蛛丝马迹,比如把塑造皇后的形象说成是为了批判专制统治,或把刻画三月兔和帽匠的形象说成是为了讥讽无聊小民,或把描述法庭审判的荒谬说成是为了揭露法律不公,那么他自己也只能作那“moral”不离嘴的公爵夫人,令酷爱幻想的爱丽丝们敬而远之了。卡罗尔非但没有赋予这段奇遇以任何“意义”的打算,甚至时常流露出对“意义”的嘲讽。这种嘲讽是借助故事中随处可见、信手拈来的文字游戏完成的。卡罗尔经常通过词语的谐音和双关,制造巧妙的文字之趣,对现实生活中的严肃事物加以揶揄。比如假海龟在回忆自己的学校生活时,说它们的老师被叫做“Tortoise(乌龟)”,因为它“taught us(教我们)”,而它们的课程则有“Drawing(慢吞吞地说)”、“Stretching(伸展)”和“Fainting in Coils(绕圈子昏倒)”,其实它们分别指“Drawing(绘画)”、“Sketching(素描)”和“Painting in Oils(油画)”(第九章)。这些利用谐音创造的课程名目,既吻合海龟的动作特点,更是在调侃当时的学校教育。诗歌也是这篇小说中的亮点。爱丽丝脱口背诵的那些打油诗多为戏仿著名的说教诗而作,其中的“意义”当然已被消解得无影无踪。那首讲述老鼠的身世(tale)的小诗偏偏状如尾巴(tail)(第三章),将谐音与荒诞诗融为一体,这大约也可算较早的“图案诗”了。其实,卡罗尔早在少年时便谙熟这些文字游戏了,常在家庭刊物上发表些模仿诗、戴头诗以及字谜游戏。他另有两首类似的著名诗作,一是《镜中世界》里的“捷波瓦奇(Jabberwocky)”,一是长诗《斯纳克之猎》(*The Hunting of the Snark*) (1876),前者生造了许多新词,开了“荒诞诗体”的先河,后者则是重

要的谐体史诗。(当被问起这首史诗有何“意义”，究竟是道德教训的寓言，还是政治讽刺时，卡罗尔的回答只是“我不知道!”)

但若说爱丽丝的这些奇遇毫无“意义”，却又不尽然，读者可以从中品味出隐约的哲理。爱丽丝发现一扇老鼠洞大小的门后面有一个令人神往的花园，可不幸的是，要么是她个子太高而门太小，要么是她个子变小而钥匙却留在了令她难以企及的桌子上，对她来说那个花园偏偏永远只能是一个可望而不可及的美梦(见第一、第二章)。而当她经过几次“变身”之后，甚至疑惑起“我究竟是谁?”，于是将与她年龄相仿的小伙伴们一一数来，却还是难以决定自己是否自己(见第二章)；爱丽丝与毛毛虫的对话从“我是谁”开始，虽然她竭力回避，可兜了一个大圈子之后，话题仍回到了那个令她百思不得其解的问题(见第五章)。在小说的开始部分，作者以大量篇幅记述爱丽丝身体的不断变化以及由此带给她的尴尬。身体的变化使她总是无法随心所欲地行动，竟至对自身产生了陌生感。无论是情节(身材的瞬间缩小或长大)还是其结果(忘记了自己是谁，不得不依靠排除法确定自己的身份)在现实生活中都是不可能发生的，也是老于世故的成年人不屑思量的。但是卡罗尔凭借丰富的想象力，将这些离奇的事情生动地展现在孩子们眼前，使他们沉浸在虚幻却充满趣味的世界中。同时，那些童心未泯的成人也能在爱丽丝的尴尬中读出自身因素与外在条件之间难以排解的矛盾，而这种矛盾境地恰恰是现实生活中普遍存在的。所以说，卡罗尔的这部小说既是儿童文学的经典，因为它完全是“为孩子们立言”，充满了孩子般的奇思妙想，荒诞不经而又妙趣横生；同时又受到成人的喜爱，不仅仅因为它能够勾起童年的美好回忆，更因为可以从荒诞读出妙趣，可以将它视作隽永的人生寓言。

吴其尧

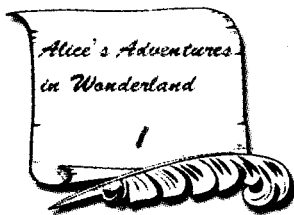
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ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

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Down the Rabbit-Hole



Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do: once or twice she had peeped into^① the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, "and what is the use of a book," thought Alice "without pictures or conversation?"

So she was considering in her own mind^② (as well as she could, for the hot day made her feel very sleepy and stupid), whether the pleasure of making a daisy-chain would be worth the trouble of getting up and picking the daisies, when suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her.

There was nothing so VERY remarkable in that; nor did Alice think it so VERY much out of the way^③ to hear the Rabbit say to itself, "Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be late!" (when she thought it over afterwards, it occurred to her^④ that she ought to have wondered at this, but at the time it all seemed quite natural); but when the Rabbit actually **TOOK A WATCH OUT OF ITS WAISTCOAT-POCKET**, and looked at it, and then hurried on, Alice started to her feet, for it flashed across her mind^⑤ that she had never before seen a rabbit with either a waistcoat-pocket, or a watch to take out of it, and burning with curiosity,^⑥ she ran across the field after it, and fortunately was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit-hole under the hedge.

In another moment down went Alice after it, never once considering how in the world she was to get out again.^⑦

① peeped into: 偷看、窥视 ② was considering ... own mind: 自己在心里盘算
③ so VERY ... the way: 十分出奇的事情 ④ it occurred to her: 她突然想起来
⑤ it flashed across her mind: 心里忽然记得(想起) ⑥ burning with curiosity: 感到非常好奇
⑦ In another ... out again: 不管三七二十一, 爱丽丝立刻就跟进洞去, 想也不想这辈子还能再出来

The rabbit-hole went straight on like a tunnel for some way, and then dipped suddenly down,^① so suddenly that Alice had not a moment to think about stopping herself before she found herself falling down a very deep well.

Either the well was very deep, or she fell very slowly, for she had plenty of time as she went down to look about her and to wonder what was going to happen next. First, she tried to look down and make out what she was coming to,^② but it was too dark to see anything; then she looked at the sides of the well, and noticed that they were filled with cupboards and book-shelves; here and there she saw maps and pictures hung upon pegs. She took down a jar from one of the shelves as she passed; it was labelled "ORANGE MARMALADE", but to her great disappointment it was empty: she did not like to drop the jar for fear of killing somebody, so managed to put it into one of the cupboards as she fell past it.

"Well!" thought Alice to herself, "after such a fall as this, I shall think nothing of tumbling down stairs!^③ How brave they'll all think me at home! Why, I wouldn't say anything about it, even if I fell off the top of the house!" (Which was very likely true.)

Down, down, down. Would the fall NEVER come to an end! "I wonder how many miles I've fallen by this time?" she said aloud. "I must be getting somewhere near the centre of the earth. Let me see: that would be four thousand miles down, I think —" (for, you see, Alice had learnt several things of this sort in her lessons in the schoolroom, and though this was not a VERY good opportunity for showing off her knowledge,^④ as there was no one to listen to her, still it was good practice to say it over) — yes, that's about the right distance — but then I wonder what Latitude or Longitude I've got to^⑤?" (Alice had no idea what Latitude was, or Longitude either, but thought they were nice grand words to say.)

Presently she began again. "I wonder if I shall fall right THROUGH the earth! How funny it'll seem to come out among the people that walk

① dipped suddenly down: 忽然直往下倾斜。② make out ... coming to: 弄清楚地究竟会掉落在什么上面。③ think nothing ... down stairs: 从梯子上滚落下去可不算不得什么了。④ showing off her knowledge: 卖弄知识。⑤ what Latitude ... got to: 我找到了什么纬度或经度上了。

with their heads downward!^① The Antipathies,^② I think —” (she was rather glad there WAS no one listening, this time, as it didn't sound at all the right word) “— but I shall have to ask them what the name of the country is, you know. Please, Ma'am,^③ is this New Zealand or Australia?” (and she tried to curtsey as she spoke — fancy CURTSEYING as you're falling through the air! Do you think you could manage it?) “And what an ignorant little girl she'll think me for asking! No, it'll never do to ask; perhaps I shall see it written up somewhere.”

Down, down, down. There was nothing else to do, so Alice soon began talking again. “Dinah'll miss me very much to-night, I should think!” (Dinah was the cat.) “I hope they'll remember her saucer of milk at tea-time. Dinah my dear! I wish you were down here with me! There are no mice in the air, I'm afraid, but you might catch a bat, and that's very like a mouse, you know. But do cats eat bats, I wonder?” And here Alice began to get rather sleepy, and went on saying to herself, in a dreamy sort of way,^④ “Do cats eat bats? Do cats eat bats?” and sometimes, “Do bats eat cats?” for; you see, as she couldn't answer either question, it didn't much matter which way she put it. She felt that she was dozing off,^⑤ and had just begun to dream that she was walking hand in hand with Dinah, and saying to her very earnestly, “Now, Dinah, tell me the truth: did you ever eat a bat?” when suddenly, thump! thump! down she came upon a heap of sticks and dry leaves, and the fall was over.

Alice was not a bit hurt, and she jumped up on to her feet^⑥ in a moment: she looked up, but it was all dark overhead; before her was another long passage, and the White Rabbit was still in sight, hurrying down it. There was not a moment to be lost: away went Alice like the wind, and was just in time to hear it say, as it turned a corner, “Oh my ears and whiskers, how late it's getting!” She was close behind it when she turned the corner, but the Rabbit was no longer to be seen: she found herself in a long, low hall, which was lit up^⑦ by a row of lamps hanging from the roof.

① the people ... heads downward: 倒立着走路的人 ② The Antipathies: 原意为“为人所恶的人或物”因爱丽丝不懂这个字的意思而误用。赵元任先生译为“倒踏世界”,与前文的“heads downward”(倒足世界)谐音 ③ Ma'am: Madam ④ in a dreamy sort of way: 半梦半醒状 ⑤ dozing off: 睡着了;打着盹 ⑥ jumped up on to her feet: 一跳就站了起来 ⑦ lit up: 照亮

There were doors all round the hall, but they were all locked; and when Alice had been all the way down one side and up the other, trying every door, she walked sadly down the middle, wondering how she was ever to get out again.

Suddenly she came upon^① a little three-legged table, all made of solid glass; there was nothing on it except a tiny golden key, and Alice's first thought was that it might belong to one of the doors of the hall; but, alas! either the locks were too large, or the key was too small, but at any rate it would not open any of them. However, on the second time round, she came upon a low curtain she had not noticed before, and behind it was a little door about fifteen inches high: she tried the little golden key in the lock, and to her great delight it fitted!

Alice opened the door and found that it led into a small passage, not much larger than a rat-hole: she knelt down and looked along the passage into the loveliest garden you ever saw. How she longed to get out of that dark hall, and wander about among those beds of bright flowers and those cool fountains,^② but she could not even get her head through the doorway; "and even if my head would go through," thought poor Alice, "it would be of very little use without my shoulders. Oh, how I wish I could shut up like a telescope!^③ I think I could, if I only know how to begin." For, you see, so many out-of-the-way^④ things had happened lately, that Alice had begun to think that very few things indeed were really impossible.

There seemed to be no use in waiting by the little door, so she went back to the table, half hoping she might find another key on it, or at any rate a book of rules for shutting people up like telescopes: this time she found a little bottle on it, ("which certainly was not here before," said Alice,) and round the neck of the bottle was a paper label, with the words "DRINK ME" beautifully printed on it in large letters.^⑤

It was all very well to say "Drink me," but the wise little Alice was not going to do THAT in a hurry. "No, I'll look first," she said, "and see whether it's marked 'poison' or not"; for she had read several nice

① came upon: 发现 ② wander about ... cool fountains: 在鲜花丛中清凉的泉水间徜徉游玩 ③ how I wish ... a telescope: 我多么希望自己像望远镜一样一缩就能缩小啊 ④ out-of-the-way: 出奇的 ⑤ beautifully printed ... large letters: 上面写着很好看的大字

little histories^① about children who had got burnt, and eaten up by wild beasts and other unpleasant things, all because they WOULD not remember the simple rules their friends had taught them; such as, that a red-hot poker will burn you if you hold it too long; and that if you cut your finger VERY deeply with a knife, it usually bleeds; and she had never forgotten that, if you drink much from a bottle marked "poison," it is almost certain to disagree with you,^② sooner or later.

However, this bottle was NOT marked "poison," so Alice ventured to taste it,^③ and finding it very nice, (it had, in fact, a sort of mixed flavour of cherry-tart, custard, pine-apple, roast turkey, toffee, and hot buttered toast,) she very soon finished it off.

"What a curious feeling!" said Alice; "I must be shutting up like a telescope."

And so it was indeed; she was now only ten inches high, and her face brightened up at the thought that she was now the right size for going through the little door into that lovely garden. First, however, she waited for a few minutes to see if she was going to shrink any further; she felt a little nervous about this; "for it might end, you know," said Alice to herself, "in my going out^④ altogether, like a candle. I wonder what I should be like then?" And she tried to fancy what the flame of a candle is like after the candle is blown out,^⑤ for she could not remember ever having seen such a thing.

After a while, finding that nothing more happened, she decided on going into the garden at once; but, alas for poor Alice! when she got to the door, she found she had forgotten the little golden key, and when she went back to the table for it, she found she could not possibly reach it; she could see it quite plainly^⑥ through the glass, and she tried her best to climb up one of the legs of the table, but it was too slippery; and when she had tired herself out with trying,^⑦ the poor little thing sat down and cried.

"Come, there's no use in crying like that!" said Alice to herself,

① histories: 故事 ② to disagree with you: 使你觉得不适 ③ ventured to taste it: 大胆地尝了尝 ④ going out: 熄灭 ⑤ is blown out: 吹灭 ⑥ plainly: 清清楚楚地 ⑦ when she ... with trying: 她试了又试直到累极了

rather sharply; "I advise you to leave off this minute^①!" She generally gave herself very good advice, (though she very seldom followed it), and sometimes she scolded herself so severely as to bring tears into her eyes; and once she remembered trying to box her own ears^② for having cheated herself in a game of croquet she was playing against herself, for this curious child was very fond of pretending to be two people. "But it's no use now," thought poor Alice, "to pretend to be two people! Why, there's hardly enough of me left to make ONE respectable person!"^③

Soon her eye fell on a little glass box that was lying under the table: she opened it, and found in it a very small cake, on which the words "EAT ME" were beautifully marked in currants.^④ "Well, I'll eat it," said Alice, "and if it makes me grow larger, I can reach the key; and if it makes me grow smaller, I can creep under the door; so either way I'll get into the garden, and I don't care which happens!"

She ate a little bit, and said anxiously to herself, "Which way? Which way?"^⑤, holding her hand on the top of her head to feel which way it was growing, and she was quite surprised to find that she remained the same size; to be sure, this generally happens when one eats cake, but Alice had got so much into the way of expecting nothing but out-of-the-way things to happen, that it seemed quite dull and stupid for life to go on in the common way.^⑥

So she set to work,^⑦ and very soon finished off the cake.

① to leave off this minute: 马上停住别哭 ② box her own ears: 打她自己的耳光
 ③ Why, there's ... respectable person: 唉! 剩下的这点儿我, 连一个像样的人都不够做了 ④ in currants: 用葡萄干做成的 ⑤ Which way? Which way: 是变大还是变小 ⑥ but Alice ... common way: 但是爱丽丝见过了那么多稀奇古怪的事情, 要是这事就这么平平常常, 她简直觉得生活又乏味又笨拙了 ⑦ set to work: 开始吃起来了

The Pool of Tears



“**C**uriouiser and curiouiser!” cried Alice (she was so much surprised, that for the moment she quite forgot how to speak good English); “now I’m opening out like the largest telescope that ever was! Good-bye, feet!” (for when she looked down at her feet, they seemed to be almost out of sight, they were getting so far off): “Oh, my poor little feet, I wonder who will put on your shoes and stockings for you now, dears? I’m sure I shan’t be able! I shall be a great deal too far off to trouble myself about you^①; you must manage the best way you can; — but I must be kind to them,” thought Alice, “or perhaps they won’t walk the way I want to go! Let me see: I’ll give them a new pair of boots every Christmas.”

And she went on planning to herself how she would manage it.^② “They must go by the carrier^③,” she thought; “and how funny it’ll seem, sending presents to one’s own feet! And how odd the directions will look!

ALICE’S RIGHT FOOT, ESQ.
HEARTHTRUG,
NEAR THE FENDER,
(WITH ALICE’S LOVE).^④

Oh dear, what nonsense I’m talking!”

Just then her head struck against the roof of the hall; in fact she was now more than nine feet high, and she at once took up the little golden

① I shall ... about you: 我离你们太远了,照顾你们太麻烦了 ② And she ... manage it: 她心里盘算着怎样把鞋送给它们 ③ carrier: 信使 ④ ALICE’S RIGHT ... (WITH ALICE’S LOVE): 火炉围栏边 地毯上 爱丽丝的右脚 收 (爱丽丝顺致爱的问候)

key and hurried off to the garden door.

Poor Alice! It was as much as she could do, lying down on one side, to look through into the garden with one eye;^① but to get through was more hopeless than ever: she sat down and began to cry again.

"You ought to be ashamed of yourself," said Alice, "a great girl like you," (she might well say this), "to go on crying in this way! Stop this moment, I tell you!" But she went on all the same, shedding gallons^② of tears, until there was a large pool all round her, about four inches deep and reaching half down the hall.

After a time she heard a little pattering of feet in the distance, and she hastily dried her eyes to see what was coming. It was the White Rabbit returning, splendidly dressed, with a pair of white kid^③ gloves in one hand and a large fan in the other; he came trotting along in a great hurry, muttering to himself as he came, "Oh! the Duchess, the Duchess! Oh! won't she be savage if I've kept her waiting!" Alice felt so desperate that she was ready to ask help of any one; so, when the Rabbit came near her, she began, in a low, timid voice, "If you please, sir—" The Rabbit started violently, dropped the white kid gloves and the fan, and skurried away into the darkness as hard as he could go.

Alice took up the fan and gloves, and, as the hall was very hot, she kept fanning herself all the time she went on talking: "Dear, dear! How queer everything is to-day! And yesterday things went on just as usual. I wonder if I've been changed in the night? Let me think; was I the same when I got up this morning? I almost think I can remember feeling a little different.^④ But if I'm not the same, the next question is, Who in the world am I? Ah, THAT'S the great puzzle!" And she began thinking over all the children she knew that were of the same age as herself, to see if she could have been changed for any of them.

"I'm sure I'm not Ada," she said, "for her hair goes in such long ringlets, and mine doesn't go in ringlets at all; and I'm sure I can't be Mabel, for I know all sorts of things, and she, oh! she knows such a very little! Besides, SHE'S she, and I'm I, and — oh dear, how puzzling it all is! I'll try if I know all the things I used to know. Let me see:

① It was ... one eye: 她侧着身子躺下,勉强能用一只眼睛看见门里的小花园 ② gallon: 加仑 ③ kid: 小山羊皮 ④ I almost ... a little different: 我几乎以为我记得有些不同了

four times five is twelve, and four times six is thirteen, and four times seven is — oh dear! I shall never get to twenty at that rate! However, the Multiplication Table doesn't signify^①; let's try Geography. London is the capital of Paris, and Paris is the capital of Rome, and Rome — no, THAT'S all wrong, I'm certain! I must have been changed for Mabel! I'll try and say "How doth the little —" and she crossed her hands on her lap as if she were saying lessons,^② and began to repeat it, but her voice sounded hoarse and strange, and the words did not come the same as they used to do: —

"How doth the little crocodile
Improve his shining tail,
And pour the waters of the Nile
On every golden scale!

"How cheerfully he seems to grin,
How neatly spread his claws,
And welcome little fishes in
With gently smiling jaws!"^③

"I'm sure those are not the right words," said poor Alice, and her eyes filled with tears again as she went on, "I must be Mabel after all, and I shall have to go and live in that poky little house, and have next to no toys to play with,^④ and oh! ever so many lessons to learn! No, I've made up my mind about it; if I'm Mabel, I'll stay down here! It'll be no use their putting their heads down and saying "Come up again, dear!" I shall only look up and say "Who am I then? Tell me that first, and then, if I like being that person, I'll come up: if not, I'll stay down here till I'm somebody else" — but, oh dear!" cried Alice, with a sudden burst of tears, "I do wish they WOULD put their heads down! I am so VERY tired of being all alone here!"

As she said this she looked down at her hands, and was surprised to

① However ... doesn't signify: 不过,乘法表没有什么意义 ② say lessons: 背书

③ "How doth ... smiling jaws!": 这首打油诗模仿当时流行的说教诗。赵元任先生译为:小鳄鱼,尼罗河上晒尾巴。片片金光鳞,洒点清水蛋。笑咪咪,爪子摆得开叉开。一口温和气,欢迎小鱼儿来。 ④ have next ... play with: 快要连玩具都没有玩了