

视听英语

Audio-Visual English

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谈谈英语的自学

自学的方法是多种多样的，我们只想就如何利用本刊自学英语谈谈我们的看法。

一般来说，英语学习可分为三个阶段，姑且称为“入门”，“登堂”，“入室”，亦即初级阶段，中级阶段和高级阶段。由于入门的人困难最多，我们将着重谈这个阶段的问题。

一、入门

入门阶段的主要任务是：1)打好语音语调基础；2)初步掌握基本语法，能读懂简写读物；3)打好初步的听说基础，能作简单的交谈；4)约掌握两千词汇，能拼，能写，能听懂。

本刊的《口语入门》就是为快速入门编写的，自学的人可逐课学习，先看，后听录音，要反复听，直到能顺利进行朗读（基础好一点的人先听后看可能更好。）。在此基础上，可进行记忆工作，争取一部分一部分地背下来（每一课可分为六、七段背，对话，句型练习，练习一，练习二等等。）。主要靠听录音来背，而且要有意识地跟着仔细模仿，这样才能发展听力，并打好语音语调基础，并养成良好的口语习惯。实在听不懂时可看一看文字材料。遇到困难时可以查字典，查一查简单的语法书，也可向别人请教，实在解决不了的搁一搁也不要紧，以后感性知识多一点了可能自然解决。

《入门》教材之外，我们还刊登了与之配合的材料，如复述材料、听力材料、简写读物、实验室练习等，各人可根据情况尽量加以利用。基础浅的人可以从复述材料学起，学一篇复述一篇（仍然是通过听录音来复述，十遍、二十遍地听，直到可以复述出来，随着语言能力的增长和记忆力的加强，复述会越来越容易。）。本刊从第一期到第八期有一百六十篇复述材料，单是这些已抵得上几本教科书的内容，如能一一复述一遍，必然有助于打好坚实的语言基础。还有听力材料，文字浅近，且有录音，也要反复听。还有简写读物，我们也都尽可能附上录音，可以边看边听，既加深印象，也有助于发展听力。基础较好的同志可以设法把简写读物部分地甚至全部复述出来。特别是从第五期到第八期，每期都有两本简写读物，至少要把其中的一本从头到尾逐段或逐章复述出来。实验室练习中也有不少好的语言材料，特别是第五到第八期，每个单元都有会话材料和成段材料，也要适当加以利用。如能把第一至第八期打一个星号的材料大部分掌握，则语言可说有了初步基础，或许可以说入了门了。

当然除本刊之外，其他积极因素也要充分加以利用。广播及电视上的英语节目质量都是比较好的，特别是象《跟我学》，《走向生活》这类比较生动的材料，要尽量多看。如果条件允许，最好录下来，反复听反复练。其它能找到的带录音带或唱片的材料（如《灵格风》，《九百句》，《新概念英语》等）也要利用。为了打好基础，可以兼容并收，但都要落在“练”上。不练，学了的内容是难以巩固的。基础打得不好，以后将难以发展。

这里我们也希望有远见的老师和家长们能鼓励孩子们学英语，趁他们年纪小，记忆力强、模仿力好时打好外语基础，这对他们一辈子都是可能起作用的。

二、登堂

在打好初步基础后,就要发展这一基础,达到致用的目的。

第二阶段可争取完成下列任务:1)把词汇量扩充到四千左右;2)通过大量阅读实践,达到能阅读浅易原著和科技读物的水平;3)能听懂外国英语广播的慢速节目,和不太难的英语报告;4)有一定的口笔语能力,能通过托福考试和类似水平的测试。

实现了这些目标,英语即可达到初步使用的目的(例如可担任中学师资、到国外学习、借助英语进行科研等等),也有了较好的独立工作能力,可望逐步取得较深的造诣。

如果“入门”搞得好,基础打得比较扎实,继续努力一两年就可能达到上述要求。

本刊第九至二十期就是为实现上述目标设计的。把理解力提高到能读浅易原著将大力开展阅读,累计阅读二三十本简写读物,以增加感性知识,同时结合复述进一步打好听说基础;有知识性及科普科技读物,以发展阅读原著及科技读物的能力。口语、复述及听力材料将继续刊登,还将提供一些托福考试的准备练习,这些都将有助于打好比较全面的语言基础。这一阶段我们仍然强调要苦练,特别是要复述。在复述一本本简写读物的基础上,我们还主张复述一个个较浅近的英语报告,甚至一些课程的主要内容(如《世界史话》)。凡属我们认为值得复述的材料,我们都将提供录音带。如果能坚持这样下功夫,不仅可逐步听懂外台的慢速英语节目,甚至有可能部份地复述出来。

与此同时,最好能看一本比较实惠的英语语法书,并配合着做一些语法练习。这样,在阅读中碰到的有关语法的问题,大部分都可找到答案,在以后进行口笔语实践时也会比较自觉。

这里特别希望在校的大学生在教师的指导和督促下完成上述任务。虽然要付出相当多时间和气力,但取得的收获会一辈子起作用,下这样的苦功是值得的。

三、入室

第三阶段是很长的,到哪里算一站很难说。所谓“学无止境”。象我们这些人都已学了三、四十年,仍常常感到自己学识不够。但为了说明问题,这里姑且定下一个初步要求:

1)掌握8000或更多词汇;2)能阅读各类现代原著,并可译成汉语,累计阅读量要达到两万页,(即200页的书读百本以上);3)能听懂外台正常速度的广播,并复述出基本内容;基本上看懂一般英语电影,听懂各类用英语讲授的专业课并讲出基本内容;4)能有较强的口笔语能力,进行一般的口笔语中英互译。

达到上述要求时可担任大学及中学高年级师资,可从事一般口笔译及外语科研工作。自学能否达到上述要求呢?我们想是可以的。关键是有毅力,肯下功夫。特别是在下面几方面,1)坚持听外台广播,最好录下来,反复听,从这里可以学到很多东西;2)经常听外语报告(我们在《视听英语》上要发表一些,以后还要以《丛刊》形式提供大量这类材料,并附录音);3)听英语讲演课(我们在二十期以后争取向大家提供一些这类材料);4)进行大量阅读,以近代作品为主,文学的和知识性的都要读,语言知识和修养主要从这里取得;5)要看一些语言方面的书,特别是讲词汇用法的书,以加强语言能力;6)要通过翻译,述意,作文,写读书报告等方式发展笔语能力。

四、结束语

四化建设需要大量人掌握外语。目前学习的人数以百万计,热情高,劲头大。我们要珍惜大家的积极性。我们外语工作者要千方百计帮助他们把外语学到手,以此加快国化的进程。任重而道远,我们大家要努力工作。

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Simplified Reading

I. Gulliver's Travels

Jonathan Swift

Retold by Marie Stuart

My travels began on May 4th 1699. I said good-bye to¹ my wife and two children and set sail² from Bristol³ as ship's doctors bound for⁴ the South Seas.

All went well⁵ for the first few weeks. Then there was a bad storm and the ship was wrecked.⁶ Six of the crew, of whom I was one, got into a little boat and began to row towards an island nearby. Suddenly a huge wave upset the boat,⁷ and all the other men were lost. Only I, Lemuel Gulliver, was left.

I swam as long as I could and at last, just as I could swim no more, my feet touched the bottom. I waded through⁸ the water to the shore, where there was no sign of⁹ houses or people.

I walked about half a mile further, but still saw no one. Tired out,¹⁰ I lay down on the short, soft grass and went to sleep.

When I woke up it was daylight. I lay still for a moment wondering where I was, then tried to get up. I could not move my arms or my legs or my head! I was tied to the ground! There was a buzzing noise near me but I could not see what was making it!¹¹

Suddenly I felt something moving on my left leg. It walked up me and stopped close by my chin. I looked down as well as I could (for my hair was tied to the ground), and saw a tiny man, less than six inches high, with a bow and arrow in his hand. Then many more of these little men started to run all over me. I was so surprised that I roared loudly. They ran back in a fright and fell over one another trying to get away.¹² I found out¹³ later that some of them had hurt themselves when they fell from my chest.

I managed to break¹⁴ the strings that tied my left arm to the ground, and pulled some of my hair loose¹⁵ so that I could move my head. This made the little men even

more afraid, and they shot arrows at me. Some fell on my hands and some on my face, pricking me like needles and making my skin sore wherever they landed.

The little men stood around at a distance¹⁶ watching me. After a while, when they saw I was not going to hurt them, they cut some of the strings that bound me. This at least allowed me to move my head more.

Now I could see that they had built a little platform beside my head so that their emperor could talk to me.

One little man spoke for some time, but I could not understand him, and I began to grow hungry.¹⁷ I pointed to my mouth and pretended to chew. He seemed to understand and at once sent some of his men to bring me food and drink.

Ladders were put against my sides, and over a hundred of the little men climbed up, bringing baskets full of meat and bread. Each piece of meat was the size of¹⁸ one small piece of mince, so I had to keep asking for more. The loaves were so tiny that I ate three at a time.

I drank a whole barrel of¹⁹ their wine at a gulp.²⁰ They kept looking at each other as if they could not believe it was possible to drink so much, but they brought me some more wine which I drank.

I made signs²¹ to let them know I would not try to escape, and they loosened the strings so that I could turn on my side.²² They also put some ointment on my face and hands, which took away the soreness their arrows had caused.

Then I fell asleep again.

When I woke up I found myself on a kind of platform with wheels. It was moving towards the capital city of these tiny people about half a mile away. Fifteen hundred of the emperor's largest horses, each about as big as my hand, were pulling me along.

I later found out that it had taken five hundred carpenters and engineers to make this platform and no less than nine hundred men to put me onto it while I was still asleep.

For some time I did not know what had wakened me. I was told later however that some of the young people wanted to see how I looked when I was asleep. They climbed onto the platform and walked very softly up to my face. One of them, an officer in the Guards,²³ put the sharp end of his spear up into my nose, which tickled my nose like a straw and made me sneeze, waking me up. They ran away quickly before I caught sight of²⁴ them.

We made a long march for the remainder of that day²⁵ and rested at night. They put five hundred guards on each side of me ready to shoot me if I tried to escape.

At last we arrived at the capital city. The platform to which I was tied stopped outside a church which was no longer used. Since this was the largest building in the whole country, the emperor had planned that I should live there. The door was just big enough for me to creep through²⁶ when I wanted to sleep. Once inside, I could only lie down.

The little men would not let me go free, however. They put nearly a hundred of their tiny chains round my left leg, so that although I could stand up, I could not move very far.

When this was done, the emperor came to see me. He carried in his hand a sword about as big as one of our darning needles²⁷, to defend himself if I should break loose²⁸. He was a handsome little man, much taller than the rest of his court, who were with him, and he wore a gold helmet with a plume on the crest. All the ladies and gentlemen of the court were dressed in gold and silver, which flashed in the sun²⁹.

I tried to answer the emperor when he spoke to me, but he could not understand any of the many languages which I speak. Soon he went away to decide whether he would have to have me killed or not³⁰, for I would cost a great deal to feed³¹, and might be dangerous.

After the emperor had gone away, a great crowd of the tiny people came to see me, because none of them had ever seen such a big person before. Some of the men shot arrows at me, and one just missed my eye³². The guards tied these men up and gave them to me to punish.

I put five of them in my pocket, and pretended I was going to eat the other one, who was very frightened. Then I took out my pen-knife and cut the cords that bound him, and set him on the ground. I treated the other five in the same way, taking them one by one out of my pocket. Everyone was very surprised to see me treat them so gently.

Two of the guards went to the emperor to tell him what I had done. He decided that since I had been kind to his people, he would not have me killed. He ordered people who lived close to the town to bring me six cows and forty sheep every day, and wine to drink. This was only just enough for me, since everything was so tiny.

Three hundred tailors were told to make clothes for me, and six hundred of the little people were to look after me. They were to live in tents outside the church to make it easier for them.

Lastly, six men were to teach me their language.

Three weeks later I was able to understand and talk to the little men. The first thing I asked the emperor was to set me free³³. He said that they must first see if I was carrying anything that could be a danger to his people. Two men came to look through³⁴ my pockets, and wrote down everything they found.

They gave me a new name: the Great Man Mountain. In my pockets they found:

A handkerchief which they thought was like a carpet.

A snuff box³⁵ which they called a chest filled with dust. It made them sneeze.

A notebook in which they recognized very large writing.

A comb. They knew what this was for³⁶, but said it looked like the railings round the emperor's palace.

A knife, a razor, and a pair of pistols. All these things were new to them, and they could not think what they were for.

A watch. They said it made a noise like a water-mill. They thought it must be a god which I worshipped, because I told them I always looked at it before I did anything.

A purse. They called this a net large enough for a fisherman, but they knew I used it as a purse. They were very surprised at the size of the gold pieces in my purse.

When the two little men had finished looking in my pockets, they looked at my belt. They wrote down that I had a sword as long as five men and a pouch with two

pockets. One of these pockets held black powder, the other very heavy round balls.

They took their list to the emperor, who asked me to take out my sword and put it carefully on the ground. Then he asked me what my pistols were for. I told him not to be afraid, and I fired one of them in the air.

Everyone fell down in fright except the emperor, although he too went very white³⁷. He made me give up my pistols at once. I did so, telling him that the black powder must be kept away from³⁸ fire because it was very dangerous.

All my things were put away in the emperor's store room, except for my eyeglasses which were in a pocket the men had not found.

Slowly the emperor and his people came to understand³⁹ that they were in no danger from me⁴⁰. From time to time some of them would dance on my hand, and the boys and girls liked to play hide and seek⁴¹ in my hair as I lay on the ground. Even the horses stopped being afraid of me, and horses and riders would take turns⁴² to leap over my hand as I held it on the ground.

One day some people came to tell the emperor that they had found a huge black object lying on the ground. They said it was not alive, and they thought it might belong to the Great Man Mountain. It was my hat, which I thought I had lost at sea! To bring it to me, they made two holes in the brim and fastened cords from the hat to the harnesses of five horses. It was then dragged along the ground for half a mile. This did not do it much good!

Another time the emperor asked me to stand with my legs apart⁴³ so that his army could march between them. There were no less than 3000 foot soldiers and 1000 horsemen, and they marched with drums beating and flags flying.

I asked once more to be set free, and at last the emperor agreed, so long as⁴⁴ I would obey his rules. I said that I would, and my chains were taken off.

I had always wanted to see the capital city, and now that I was free the emperor said I could. All the people were told to stay in their houses in case⁴⁵ I walked on them. So they crowded to their windows to see me as I stepped over the wall into the square where the emperor's palace stood.

It was really magnificent, like a big doll's house. I lay down to look inside and

the empress came to the window, smiling, and gave me her hand to kiss.

Soon after I was set free, one of the country's great men⁴⁶ came to see me. We had a long talk and I learned many things.

I had thought the island, which is called Lilliput, was a peaceful and happy one, but he told me this was not so⁴⁷.

"You may have seen," he said, "that some of us wear high heels and some wear low heels on our shoes. The emperor will let only people wearing low heels work for him, and those who like high heels feel that this is wrong. Because of this there are many quarrels among the Lilliputians."

Then he told me of a much bigger danger that was about to befall his country.

"There is an island close by called Blefuscu, and the people there are going to attack us."

"Why?" I asked him.

"It all began long ago," he replied. "When our emperor's great-grandfather was a little boy, he cut his finger one morning as he took the top off his egg. Up till then everyone had cut off the big end of the egg. After that, however, the ruler of those times said that everyone must cut off the small end, and those who would not obey had to leave Lilliput. They went to the island of Blefuscu and called themselves the Big-Endians. Now they are coming to make war on⁴⁸ Lilliput, and the emperor wants you to help us."

I said I would help the people of Lilliput in any way I could⁴⁹, for they had been very kind to me.

I knew that the Big-Endians had about fifty warships lying at anchor⁵⁰, and I planned to seize them.

I fixed fifty hooks to fifty lengths of cord⁵¹, then I set off for Blefuscu. There was only about half a mile of sea between the islands, and I could wade most of the way except right in the middle where I had to swim.

The enemy took fright when they saw me, and leaped out of their ships and swam to shore. I then fastened a hook to the prow of each ship, and tied all the cords together at the end. While I was doing this, the Big-Endians shot thousands of their tiny arrows at me. I was afraid one would go in my eye, so I put on my glasses.

After I had cut the anchor cables, I took up the knotted end⁵² of the cords to which

my hooks were tied, and set off back to Lilliput with fifty of the enemy's largest ships.

The emperor was so pleased with me that he made me a Nardac, which is something like a duke in my own land.

Now the emperor wanted me to seize the rest of the enemy's ships, so that he could be emperor of the Big-Endians as well as Lilliput. He would then be able to make the Big-Endians obey his rules and cut off the small ends of their eggs. I would not do this as I did not think it was right. This made the emperor angry with me.

Soon after this, some of the Big-Endians came to make peace with the Lilliputians. When they saw me again, they asked me to come to Blefuscu one day so that everyone could see how big I was. I said that I would, which made the emperor even more angry with me. His Chief Admiral⁵³ was displeased with me too, not only because it was I who had defeated the Big-Endian navy (which he could not do), but also because I had been made a Nardac.

There were others amongst the emperor's great men who did not like me, some of them because I ate so much of their food, and some who thought I was dangerous.

They all asked the emperor to have me put to death⁵⁴, as an enemy of Lilliput, because I had refused to do what the emperor wanted.

The emperor refused to have me put to death, because I had helped him. He thought for a long time, then he said that the best way to punish me would be to pull out my eyes.

One of the great men was my friend. He came in secret⁵⁵ to tell me what the emperor had said, so that I could save myself.

When I heard what he had to say, I felt that the time had come for me to leave Lilliput, for I did not like the thought of being blind.

I went down to the shore and took one of the emperor's ships. I put my clothes in it so that they would not get wet, and pulled it after me as I swam across to Blefuscu.

The emperor of Blefuscu was pleased to see me, and so were all his people. They were kind to me and I liked them, but I did not want to spend the rest of my life there. I wanted to get back home.

Then one day I saw, out at sea, a full size boat⁵⁶ floating upside down⁵⁷. I asked the emperor to lend me some ships and men

to help me bring it to shore, so that I could sail home in it.

It took two thousand of the tiny men to help me to turn the boat right side up⁵⁸ once it was ashore. Then I had to get it ready for the long journey home.

The thickest linen these people had was much thinner than that of our finest handkerchiefs, so two sails were made for me by putting thirteen thicknesses together. Five hundred workmen were needed to make them! I made rope and cables by twisting together as many as thirty of the thickest and strongest of their ropes. I made oars and masts with the help of the emperor's ship-carpenters.

When all was ready, I stored food on board⁵⁹, and also live cows and bulls and sheep which I wanted to show my family. I would have liked to take some of the little people with me, but the emperor would not allow me to.

Off I set, and two days later I saw a big ship, whose captain took me on board. He did not believe my story until he saw the live cows and sheep, which were in my pocket.

When, at last I got home, my wife and children were very happy to see me again and to hear all my adventures. As for⁶⁰ the cows and sheep, I put them to eat grass in a park close by my house, at Greenwich in London. Maybe you could see some of them there today if you went to look!

A Voyage to Brobdingnag

After I had been at home for a while, I went to sea again, for I like to travel.

The first part of our voyage was pleasant, with nothing to trouble us. Then one day there was a bad storm, and we were driven hundreds of miles out of our way. We were lost. There was plenty of food on board, but not nearly enough water. So when one day we saw land, the captain sent several of us ashore to get water.

When we landed, there was no sign of a river or spring. The other men kept to the shore⁶¹, looking for water near the sea. I walked inland, but I found no water and turned back.

From where I stood, I could see our ship's boat with all the men on board, rowing as quickly as they could back to the ship. They had left me behind! Then I saw why. There was a huge man-like creature⁶² chas-

ing them, taking great strides⁶³ through the sea.

I did not wait to see what happened. I ran away as fast as I could, and climbed a steep hill to see what the country looked like.

I could not believe my eyes! The grass was nearly as tall as a house, with corn towering above⁶⁴ it as high as a church steeple⁶⁵!

I walked along what I thought was a high road, but which I found out later was just a footpath to the people of this land, and I came to a stile.

Each step in this stile was like a high wall to me, and I could not climb it. As I was looking for a gap in the huge hedge, I saw another enormous man like the one I had seen chasing my friends. I was very frightened, and ran to hide in the corn.

He called out in a voice which sounded to me like thunder, and seven other giants like himself came towards him. They carried scythes, each as big as six of our own, to reap the corn.

I grew even more frightened. Where could I hide? I ran to and fro⁶⁶ to keep out of their way, but they moved too fast for me to escape⁶⁷.

At last I called out "Stop!" as loudly as I could, just as one was about to step on me. The man looked down and picked me up, holding me tightly in case I should bite him. Then he took me to his master to show him what he had found.

This man was a farmer, and the same man I had seen at first in the field.

The farmer pulled out his handkerchief, wrapped me in it, and took me back to his farm. His wife screamed and ran away when she first saw me, just as my wife does when she sees a mouse!

Then the three children came to have a look at me. They were just going to have their dinner, and they put me on the table where they could see me as they ate.

It was like being on the roof of a house. I was in a terrible fright, and kept as far as I could from the edge, for fear of falling.

The farmer's wife gave me some crumbs of bread, and minced up some meat for me. I took out my knife and fork and started to eat, which delighted them. The farmer's wife gave me her smallest cup (it was as big as a bucket) filled with cider, but I could not drink it all.

Then in came the nurse with the baby in her arms. He wanted me as a plaything. When they gave me to him, he put my head in his mouth. I roared so loudly that the baby was frightened and dropped me. I would have been killed if his mother had not caught me in her apron⁶⁸.

After dinner the farmer went back to his fields, and his wife put me to bed with a handkerchief over me for a sheet. The bed was as wide as a main road in England, and the handkerchief thicker than the main-sail of a ship!

Later on, the daughter of the house made a bed for me in the baby's cradle. This girl was very good to me. She was nine years old and small for her age⁶⁹ in that country, since she was only forty feet tall! She called me Grildrig, which meant "Little Man", and taught me to speak their language. I liked her very much.

As soon as the people who lived round about heard of me, they all came to have a look at me. One of them told the farmer that he should take me to town next market day, and make people pay to see me. So he did this. His little girl came with us to look after me, and I called her my nurse.

I was placed on a table in the largest room of the inn, which was as big as a football field. I did all the funny tricks I could think of. I stood on my head⁷⁰, I hopped about, and I danced, to please the people who came to see me.

The farmer made a great deal of money from showing me, and he decided to take me to other towns. At last we came to the capital city, where the royal family⁷¹ lived.

The queen liked me so much that she bought me from the farmer. I begged her to let my nurse stay with me, and she agreed. Then the farmer went back home.

The queen had a little room made for me, with a roof that lifted up, and furniture which was just the right size for me⁷². To them it was a small box, with straps round it so that they could carry it. The queen had a set of silver cups, saucers and plates made for me, too.

It was like a doll's tea-set to her!

I always had my meals at a little table on the queen's table, now but I did not like to see the way she ate. She would put a piece of bread as big as two of our loaves in her mouth at one go⁷³! Her dinner knife was taller than me, and I thought it looked very dangerous.

Every Wednesday, which was their Sunday, the king came to have dinner with us. He liked to talk to me and to ask me about England. He wanted to find out in what ways we were different from the people in his own country of Brobdingnag.

The only one I did not get on well with⁷⁴ was the queen's dwarf. He was five times as tall as me—about thirty feet—but this was small for them. The king was twice as tall as he was!

The dwarf used to play tricks on me⁷⁵ because the queen liked me better than him. Once he dropped me in a jug of cream. I swam to the side and my nurse got me out. The queen was so cross with him⁷⁶ that she sent him away⁷⁷.

I was pleased when they made a little boat for me and put it in a tub of water so that I could row about. Sometimes they put a sail on the boat. Then the queen and her women would make a wind for me with their fans. They liked to see how well I could steer. It was great fun for me.

Sometimes, however, life in Brobdingnag was no fun at all! Once I had to fight off⁷⁸ some wasps with my dagger. They were as big as our pigeons, with stings as long as my thumb and as sharp as needles! I killed four of them, but the rest got away.

On another day, a monkey came into my room, and picked me up. I think he took me for⁷⁹ a baby monkey, for he stroked my face gently as he held me. Suddenly there was a noise at the door, and he leaped through the window and up to the roof, carrying me with him. They had to get ladders and climb up to drive the monkey away and bring me down.

When the king was talking to me one day, I said I could teach him how to make gunpowder so that he would win a lot of wars. The king of Brobdingnag, however, was a very wise man. He said that he did not want to learn how to do it, and I must never talk about it again. He said that if a man could make two ears of corn, or two blades of grass, grow where only one grew before, he would do more good than he could ever do by winning a war.

Soon after this the king and queen and their servants set off on a long journey to another part of Brobdingnag. I went with them in my box. They fixed up a hammock in it so that I should not feel the bumps so much as we went along.

My nurse came too, but she got a bad

cold on the way. When at last we came to a stop⁸⁰, she had to rest in bed for a few days.

I knew we were near the sea, and I longed to see it again. Since my nurse was in bed, one of the queen's pages was told to take my box down to the sea shore.

I lay in my hammock looking out at the sea, and felt sad. When would I see my home again?

The page went off to look for birds' eggs, and I fell asleep.

I awoke suddenly with a jolt⁸¹. There was a loud swishing noise⁸² above me, and my box seemed to be moving upwards very fast. I called out several times, but no one answered.

Then I guessed what had happened. A big bird, perhaps an eagle, had swooped down⁸³ and picked up the ring of my box in his beak. I was flying through the air!

Soon there came a loud squawking, as if the eagle were fighting, and all at once⁸⁴ I was falling. Faster and faster, down, down, down! My box stopped with a great SPLASH⁸⁵.

After a moment I stopped trembling, and looked out of the window. I was at sea!

I pulled open a little trap-door⁸⁶ in the roof of my box to let in some fresh air. Then I called for help, but no one heard me. How I wished my nurse was with me⁸⁷!

Taking out my handkerchief, I tied it to my walking-stick. Then I stood on a chair and pushed my flag through the little trap-door, waving it to and fro and calling for help again. No one came. I gave myself up for lost⁸⁸.

I sat without hope for a long time. Then, as I stared through the window, I suddenly realised that my box was being pulled along.

After a little while, it stopped, and there was a clattering above my head like that of a cable being passed through the ring on top. Once more I pushed my flag out of the trap-door and called for help.

This time, to my great joy⁸⁹, someone answered—in English! I begged him to come and let me out. He told me that I was safe, and that my box was tied to the side of his ship. He said he would send a man to cut a hole in it.

Soon this was done, and with the help of a ladder and many willing hands⁹⁰ I was pulled up onto the deck.

It was an English ship, with English sailors—not giants, not little men, but people the same size as me!

The sailors asked me why I had been in the box. When I told them my story, they did not believe me. At first the captain thought I had been shut up⁹¹ in the box because I had done something very bad. When I told him about the Brobdingnagians, he did not believe me either.

I showed him a gold ring the queen had given me—it was so big I wore it round my neck like a collar. And I gave him a giant's tooth which a Brobdingnagian dentist had taken out by mistake. It was as big as a milk bottle!

At last he believed me. He said he would take me back to England with him, and we set sail for home.

Many weeks later, when I left the ship and came on land again, the houses and people all looked so small that I thought I must be in Lilliput once more. When my wife heard all about the dangers I had been through⁹², she said I must never go to sea again.

NOTES

1. said good-bye to . . . : 和……告别。
2. set sail: 启航。
3. Bristol: 布里斯托(英国西南部一城市)。
4. bound for . . . : (出海)到……去。
5. all went well: 一切都很顺利。
6. was wrecked: (船)遇难,失事。
7. upset the boat: 把小船打翻了。
8. waded through: 涉过。
9. there was no sign of . . . : 连……的影子都没有。
10. tired out: 精疲力尽。
11. I could not see what was making it: 我不知道是什么东西发出的声音。
12. fell over one another trying to get away: 争先恐后地逃跑。
13. found out: 发现。
14. managed to break: 设法挣断了。
15. pulled some of my hair loose: 把我的一些头发拉开。
16. at a distance: 在稍远一点的地方。
17. I began to grow hungry: 我开始感到饿了。
18. was the size of . . . : 象……一样大小。
19. a whole barrel of: 整整一桶。
20. at a gulp: 一口气。
21. made signs: 做各种示意动作。
22. turn on my side: 侧转身子,翻身。
23. the Guards: 卫队。
24. caught sight of: 看到。
25. the remainder of that day—the rest of that day: 在那天其余的时间里。
26. creep through: 爬过去。
27. darning needle: 织补用的大针。
28. break loose: 挣脱。
29. flashed in the sun: 在阳光下闪闪发光。
30. have me killed or not: 是否把我处死。
31. I would cost a great deal to feed: 养活我需要很大花费。
32. just missed my eye: 险些射中我的眼睛。
33. set me free: 把我释放。
34. look through: 仔细检查。
35. a snuff box: 一只鼻烟盒。
36. what this was for: 这是做什么用的。
37. went very white: 脸色变得煞白。
38. be kept away from . . . : 不要让……靠近……。
39. came to understand: 开始明白。
40. They were in no danger from me: 我对他们并无危险。
41. play hide and seek: 捉迷藏。
42. take turns: 轮流着。
43. stand with my legs apart: 我的两腿条叉开站着。
44. so long as: 只要。
45. in case: 万一。
46. great men: 大人物。
47. this was not so: 情况并不如此。
48. make war on: 对……开战(发动战争)。
49. in any way I could: 尽我所能。
50. lying at anchor: 停泊在水中(lying是lie的现在分词)。
51. fifty lengths of cord: 五十根绳子。
52. the knotted end: 打结的那一头。
53. Chief Admiral: 海军总司令。
54. to have me put to death: 把我处死。
55. in secret: 秘密地,暗中。
56. a full size boat: 一只大小正常的船。
57. upside down: 底朝上。
58. to turn the boat right side up: 把船翻正过来。
59. stored food on board: 把食物装到船上。
60. as for: 至于。
61. kept to the shore: 沿着海岸(走)。
62. a huge man-like creature: 一个庞大的象人一样的生物。

63. take great strides: 迈着大步。
64. tower above . . . : 高高耸立于...之上。
65. a church steeple: 教堂的尖塔。
66. to and fro: 来回地。
67. keep out of their ways but they moved too fast for me to escape:好不挡他们的路, 但是他们行动太快, 我躲避不及。
68. I would have been killed if his mother had not caught me in her apron: 要不是他的妈妈用围裙兜住了我, 我就没命了。
69. small for her age: 就她的年龄来说, 长得比较矮小。
70. stood on one's head: 倒立, 拿大顶。
71. royal family: 皇室。
72. furniture which was just the right size for me: 大小对我正合适的家具。
73. at one go: 一口(气)。
74. did not get on well with: 相处得不好。
75. play tricks on me: 捉弄我。
76. be so cross with him: 对他如此生气。
77. sent him away: 把他打发走了。
78. fight off: 击退。
79. he took me for . . . : 他把我错当成.....。
80. came to a stop: 停下来。
81. with a jolt: 一下猛烈的颠簸。
82. swishing noise: 飕飕的响声。
83. swooped down: 猛扑下来。
84. all at once: 突然。
85. with a great SPLASH: 随着水溅起来的一声巨响。
86. trap-door: 活动天窗。
87. How I wish my nurse was with me! 我的保姆要是和我在一起该多好啊!
88. I gave myself up for lost: 我感到绝望了。
89. to my great joy: 使我万分高兴的是。
90. willing hands: 热情的手。
91. had been shut up: 被关起来。
92. I had been through: 我所经历过的。

—— 罗希和 注

2. The Three Musketeers

Alexandre Dumas

Retold by Joan Cameron

One morning in April, 1625, the little French town of Meung was in a state of great excitement. In those times, fighting was common in France. The King fought the ambitious Cardinal Richelieu, who wanted to be as powerful as the King himself. Noble families fought among themselves, and Spain was always ready to wage war. Few days passed without trouble in some town or another¹.

On this particular day, a crowd had gathered outside the Inn. The cause of all the stir was the arrival of a young man. He was riding the oddest horse the townspeople had ever seen. It looked so comical that many of them wanted to laugh². Only the length of the sword at the young man's side, and the proud gleam in his eye, stopped them from doing so.

The young man was called D'Artagnan. He was on his way to Paris, where he hoped to fulfil his dearest wish—to become a

King's Musketeer. His father had given him a letter to Monsieur de Treville, an old friend who was now Captain of the Musketeers.

As he dismounted, D'Artagnan caught sight of a gentleman³ with a scar on his temple sitting at the Inn's open window. He was talking to two others. They were laughing, and D'Artagnan was sure they were laughing at him.

This was more than he could bear⁴.

'Tell me what you are laughing at, sir,' he called furiously. 'Then we will laugh together.'

'I was not speaking to you, sir.'

'Are you laughing at me?' demanded D'Artagnan, drawing his sword.

'I laugh as I please,' the man replied, turning away and re-appearing in the doorway.

Angrily, D'Artagnan lunged at him. Startled, the other man drew his sword. At the same moment, the innkeeper and several

onlookers, anxious to prevent a fight, fell upon D'Artagnan⁵. He was knocked senseless in the struggle, and carried indoors for attention⁶. When the innkeeper returned, the gentleman with the scar asked how the young man was.

'He will soon recover,' replied the innkeeper. 'I don't know who he is, sir, but he carries a letter to Monsieur de Treville in Paris.'

'Indeed!' The other man became alert. 'I would like to know what is in that letter. He is a nuisance, this young man. Please make out my bill⁷. I am leaving. I must meet Milady and I do not wish her to be seen by him.'

Soon afterwards, partly recovered, D'Artagnan limped into the courtyard. The first thing he saw was the gentleman, talking to a beautiful young woman in a carriage.

'What are the Cardinal's orders?' she was asking.

'You must return at once to England. Keep watch on the Duke of Buckingham.⁸ As soon as he leaves London, inform the Cardinal. I am returning to Paris.'

D'Artagnan rushed forward.

'Stand and fight, sir!' he demanded. 'Would you dare run away from me in front of a woman?'

Seeing her companion lay his hand on his sword, Milady touched his arm.

'Remember, delay could ruin our plans.'

'You're right,' he agreed. 'Go on your way, and I will go on mine⁹.'

With that, the carriage moved off, the driver cracking his whip. The gentleman jumped on his horse and galloped away in the opposite direction.

'Coward!' D'Artagnan called after him, but he was gone.

D'Artagnan was ready to leave for Paris when he found his letter to Monsieur de Treville was missing.

'My letter! It's gone!'

The innkeeper hastened to protect himself.

'That gentleman must have taken it, sir. He showed great interest in it.'

The letter seemed to be gone for good¹⁰. All D'Artagnan could do was hope Monsieur de Treville would see him without it.

Monsieur de Treville was a close friend of King XIII. In those troubled times the ruler of France needed this brave man at his side. Treville led the King's Musketeers,

a band of bold men dedicated to protect their King¹¹.

Cardinal Richelieu, who had almost as much power in the country as the King himself, also had his own men — the Cardinal's Guards. He and the King constantly boasted to one another about their men's courage, and secretly encouraged them to fight.

Monsieur de Treville's headquarters was always full of Musketeers. When D'Artagnan arrived, he made his way through them, his heart beating with excitement. He was allowed in to see Monsieur de Treville, but had to wait. The Captain was scolding three of his men.

'Athos! Porthos! Aramis! I hear you were fighting in the streets and were arrested by the Cardinal's Guards. This will not do!¹²'

'But they attacked us!' they protested. 'We fought back, and escaped.'

'The Cardinal didn't tell me that,' murmured Monsieur de Treville. 'However, I will not allow my men to risk their lives for nothing¹³. The King needs his brave Musketeers. Now you may go, and I will see this young man.'

Eagerly, D'Artagnan explained who he was. Monsieur de Treville smiled.

'I liked your father. What can I do for his son?'

D'Artagnan explained that he had come to Paris to join the Musketeers.

'That won't be possible right away¹⁴,' the Captain told him. 'I'm afraid no one becomes a Musketeer without first serving in a less important regiment. But I will do this for you. I will send you to the Royal Academy, where you will learn horsemanship and swordsmanship. Let me know how you are getting on¹⁵.'

Thanking Monsieur de Treville, D'Artagnan left, excited over his good luck.¹⁶ On the way out he had the misfortune to meet, one after the other, the three Musketeers he had seen in the Captain's room. Still smarting from the scolding they had received, they took offence easily.¹⁷ D'Artagnan upset them all so much that he found himself facing three duels. The first was to be with Athos at noon, the second with Porthos at one o'clock, and the third with Aramis at two!

Dismayed, D'Artagnan said to himself: 'I can't draw back.¹⁸ But at least if I am killed, I shall be killed by a Musketeer!'

D'Artagnan knew no one in Paris. He went to meet Athos alone,¹⁹ determined to

fight well. When Athos arrived, he brought the other two Musketeers with him. All three were astonished to see that it was the same young man they were to fight, one after the other.

'Now that you are here, gentlemen,' D'Artagnan said, 'I wish to apologise.'

At the word 'apologise' he saw contempt appear in their faces. They thought him a coward. His hot blood rose.²⁰

'You don't understand! I apologise only in case I am unable to fight all three of you.²¹ Monsieur Athos has the right to kill me first. And now — on guard!'

With the most gallant air possible, D'Artagnan drew his sword. Athos had just drawn his when a company of the Cardinal's Guards appeared.

'Sheathe your swords!' called Porthos and Aramis together, but it was too late.

'Fighting, Musketeers?' cried one of the Guards mockingly. 'You know that isn't allowed. Put up your swords.²² You're under arrest!'²³

'Never!' called the three Musketeers. 'There may only be three of us, but we will fight.'

'You are wrong — there are four of us,' D'Artagnan said quietly. 'Try me.'

'What's your name, brave fellow?' asked Athos.

'D'Artagnan, monsieur.'

'Well, then, Athos, Porthos, Aramis, and D'Artagnan, forward!'

Swords clashed and men cried out as they fought fiercely to and fro. The Cardinal's Guards were also good swordsmen, but at last they were beaten off.²⁴ Afterwards, the four returned to Monsieur de Treville's headquarters, arm in arm.²⁵

D'Artagnan's heart swelled with pride.²⁶ 'I am not yet a Musketeer, but at least I must be an apprentice.'

The affair caused a great fuss. Monsieur de Treville scolded his Musketeers in public, but congratulated them in private. The King heard of it and was so impressed by D'Artagnan's bravery that he placed him as a cadet in the Guards of Monsieur d'Essart.²⁷

From then on D'Artagnan learned about life in Paris, and about the Court of King Louis XIII and the lovely Queen Anne. He was happy, and looked forward to the day when he too would become a Musketeer.⁸²

One day, while D'Artagnan was resting in his lodgings, his landlord, Monsieur Bonacieux, came upstairs to see him.

'I have heard you are a brave young man, D'Artagnan. I need help. Constance, My wife, has been kidnapped!'

'Kidnapped?'

'My wife is seamstress to the Queen,' Monsieur Bonacieux explained. 'She is more than that. She is one of the few people the Queen can trust.'

D'Artagnan had heard a great deal about the Queen. She was a lonely woman. Everyone knew that the King no longer loved her. The Cardinal had once cared for her,²⁹ but she had rejected him. Now he plotted jealously against her.³⁰ The English Duke of Buckingham, a powerful man in the government of his own country, had fallen deeply in love with her. But England and France were not friendly.

Monsieur Bonacieux sighed.

'I think my wife was kidnapped to see if she would tell the Queen's secrets.³¹ Only the other day she told me the Queen is frightened. She thinks the Cardinal has written to Buckingham in her name, to lure him to Paris and into a trap.'

'You think the Cardinal has taken your wife?'

'I fear so,' replied Monsieur Bonacieux. 'One of his men was seen when she was carried off. He was a gentleman with a scar on his temple.'

D'Artagnan started up.

'That sounds like the man I met at Meung!'³² he exclaimed.

'Will you help me?' begged Monsieur Bonacieux. 'You are always with the Musketeers, who are enemies of the Cardinal. I thought you and your friends, while helping the Queen, would be glad to spoil his plans.'³³

'I will do what I can,' D'Artagnan agreed. 'And if the man who carried off your wife is the man I think he is I will be revenged for what happened to me at Meung!'

D'Artagnan lost no time in telling Athos, Porthos and Aramis of the disappearance of Constance Bonacieux.

'This woman is in trouble because of her loyalty,'³⁴ he told them. 'I am also anxious about the Queen's safety.'

'I have heard people say she loves our enemies, the Spanish and the English,' said Athos.

'Spain is her own country,' D'Artagnan reminded him. 'It is only natural that she should love the Spanish.'³⁵ As for the English — only one Englishman is involved, Buck-

ingham, the King of England's chief minister. Now the Cardinal and his men seem to be using his admiration for the Queen in some wicked plot.

The Cardinal was their true enemy, the friends agreed. If they could spoil his plans, it would be worth risking their heads. The missing Constance Bonacieux was the key to the whole intrigue.³⁶ She must be found, and they would do it together.

The four men stretched out their hands and shouted in one voice:

'All for one, and one for all!'³⁷

D'Artagnan's task was to keep watch on Monsieur Bonacieux's apartments from his own room on the upper floor. Monsieur Bonacieux had been arrested, and the Cardinal's Guards were using his house as a trap. Anyone arriving there was taken away for questioning to see what they knew of the Queen's affairs.

Late one night, D'Artagnan heard cries from downstairs. Realising it was a woman's voice, he drew his sword and rushed to the rescue.³⁸ The woman was Constance Bonacieux herself! She had escaped, and returned home. The Cardinal's men had followed her, but surprised by D'Artagnan's attack, they ran away.

'Thank you for saving me!' cried Constance Bonacieux. 'Now I must go — there is something I have to do for the Queen.'

A few hours later, D'Artagnan was astonished to see her in a dark street. She was with a Musketeer who looked like Aramis. What were they doing? D'Artagnan hurried up to speak to them, and found the man was a stranger, disguised in a Musketeer's uniform.³⁹ He was the English Duke of Buckingham! Constance Bonacieux was taking him to a secret meeting at the Louvre with the Queen.

'Please don't give us away,'⁴⁰ Madame Bonacieux begged. 'You can ruin us all.'⁴¹ D'Artagnan shook the Duke's hand.

'I will make sure you reach the Louvre safely.'

At the Louvre, Madame Bonacieux led the Duke into a quiet drawing room. Buckingham had come to Paris in answer to a message, supposed to be from the Queen.⁴² On his arrival in the city, he had learned the message was a trap, set by the Cardinal.

Although the English Duke knew he was in danger, he refused to return to London without seeing the Queen. He waited, un-

fraid, while the trusted Constance Bonacieux brought her mistress to see him.

Buckingham turned as the Queen came into the room, her lovely face pale. She implored the Duke to return to England and safety. She made him promise not to see her secretly again. It was too dangerous.

'Come as an ambassador, with guards to defend you'⁴³, she said. 'Then I will know you are safe.'

'Very well,' Buckingham agreed. 'Please give me something of yours, perhaps a ring or a chain. I will wear it to remember you.'

Queen Anne thrust a rosewood casket into his hands.

'Take this, and go, before it is too late'⁴⁴!

Unknown to the Queen, Cardinal Richelieu was soon to know about her secret meeting with Buckingham. The news was brought to him by the Compt de Rochefort, the very man who had so annoyed D'Artagnan at Meung.⁴⁵ An agent of the Cardinal, he had placed a spy in the Queen's household.

'The Queen and Buckingham have met,' he told the Cardinal. 'He has already left for England.'

'Then our plan has failed,' said the Cardinal angrily.

'The Queen gave Buckingham a gift.' Rochefort went on. 'It was a box containing the twelve diamond studs the King gave her on her birthday.'

'Well, well!' The Cardinal smiled suddenly. 'All is not lost'⁴⁶.

He sat down and wrote a letter. Closing it with his seal, he sent for a servant.

'Take this at once to London,' he ordered. 'Stop for no one'⁴⁷.

The letter said:

'Milady de Winter — be at the first Ball Buckingham attends⁴⁸. He will wear on his doublet twelve diamond studs. Cut off two of these. As soon as you have them, inform me.'

King Louis XIII was next to know about Buckingham's visit, for the Cardinal told him himself.⁴⁹ The King demanded to know why Buckingham had come.

'No doubt to conspire with your enemies'⁵⁰, replied the Cardinal.

'He came to see the Queen!' insisted the King, furiously.

'I am unwilling to think so,' said the Cardinal. He knew how suspicious the King was of his wife⁵¹. 'But I have heard she cried this morning, and spent the day writing letters.'

'I must have these letters!' cried the King. He immediately sent the Chancellor to search the Queen's rooms, but the only letters he found were to the Queen's own brother. They attacked the Cardinal's power in France, but did not mention Buckingham. The King was delighted.

'I was wrong, Cardinal,' he admitted. 'The Queen is true to me.'

The Cardinal bowed his head.

'Perhaps you should do something to please her, sire. Give a Ball ⁵². The Queen loves dancing. It would be a chance for her to wear those beautiful diamonds you gave her for her birthday.'

The Queen was surprised and happy when the King told her about the Ball. She asked eagerly when it was to be held. The King told her the Cardinal would arrange everything. Every day for more than a week, however, the Cardinal made some excuse for not setting the date ⁵³.

On the eighth day he received a letter from Milady de Winter in London. It read: 'I have them. Please send money and I will bring them to Paris.'

The Cardinal knew that Milady could be there in ten to twelve days. Content that his plans were going well, he spoke to the King about the Ball ⁵⁴.

'Today is September 20th. I have arranged that the Ball will take place in the Hotel de Ville on October 3rd. And do not forget, sire, to remind the Queen to wear the diamond studs!'

The Queen was delighted when Louis told her the Ball would soon take place. But her delight soon turned to shock ⁵⁵.

'I wish you to appear in your most beautiful gown,' he told her, 'wearing the diamond studs I gave you for your birthday.'

The Queen stared at the King.

'When is the Ball?' she asked faintly.

'The Cardinal has arranged it for October 3rd,' replied the King. At the sound of that name, Queen Anne grew pale ⁵⁶.

'Was it also his idea that I should wear the diamond studs?'

'What if it was?' demanded the King ⁵⁷. 'Do I ask too much?'

The Queen shook her head. 'No, sire.'

'Then you will appear as I ask?'

'Yes, sire.'

Once the King had gone, Queen Anne sank into a chair in despair.

'I am lost,' she murmured ⁵⁸. 'The Cardinal must know everything. What am I to do?'

And she began to weep.

'Don't cry, Your Majesty.'

The Queen turned sharply around, for she thought she was alone. It was Constance Bonacieux, who had heard everything.

'Don't be afraid,' she told the Queen. 'We will get those diamonds back in time for the Ball!'

Constance Bonacieux knew her husband would not help. The Cardinal had released him, and given him money. He was now a Cardinal's man. There was one person who could help — D'Artagnan. She told him what had happened, first swearing him to secrecy ⁵⁹.

'I will go to London at once,' he told her.

Realising not a moment was to be lost, D'Artagnan went to see Monsieur de Treville. He asked if he could arrange leave of absence for him ⁶⁰.

'I must go to London,' he explained. 'I am on a secret mission for the Queen.'

Monsieur de Treville looked sharply at the eager young man.

'Will anyone try to prevent you?'

'The Cardinal would if he knew,' D'Artagnan admitted.

'Then you must not go alone,' said Monsieur de Treville. 'Athos, Porthos and Aramis will go with you. Then surely one of you at least will get through to London.'

'Thank you,' D'Artagnan said, gratefully.

Athos, Porthos and Aramis were as excited at D'Artagnan himself when he explained their mission.

The four adventurers left Paris at two o'clock in the morning. As long as it remained dark, they kept silent ⁶¹. In spite of themselves, they expected ambushes on every side ⁶². With the sunrise, their spirits rose.

All went well until they arrived at Chantilly, early in the morning. They stopped at an inn for breakfast. After the meal, the first sign of danger appeared. A stranger who had shared their table called on Porthos to drink the Cardinal's health. Porthos agreed, if the other would then drink the health of the King ⁶³. The stranger cried that he would drink to no one but the Cardinal ⁶⁴. A bitter argument followed. Leaving Porthos to settle it, the others hurried on their way.

They had travelled for several hours when they came upon men mending the road.

As they drew level, the workmen drew out concealed muskets⁶⁵.

'It's an ambush!' cried D'Artagnan. 'Ride on!'

They spurred their horses forward, but Aramis was wounded in the shoulder. He was able to travel only a little further. Athos and D'Artagnan had to leave him to be looked after at a village inn⁶⁶.

Only D'Artagnan and Athos were left. They rode on. At nightfall they took a room at Amiens. The night passed quietly enough, but when Athos went to pay the bill in the morning, the landlord accused him of using forged money⁶⁷. Four armed men rushed in. They had obviously been waiting.

'Ride on, D'Artagnan!' shouted Athos, drawing his sword.

D'Artagnan did not need to be told twice. He galloped on. At length, his horse exhausted, he reached Calais, the port for ships bound for England⁶⁸. He ran on to the quay. There, a travel-weary gentleman was telling a ship's captain that he must go to England. The ship was ready to sail, the captain explained, but the Cardinal had just issued an order. No ship was to leave without his permission⁶⁹.

'I already have it,' the gentleman said, showing a paper. 'Will you take me?'

The captain agreed, but insisted that the pass had to be signed by the Port Governor. Hearing this, D'Artagnan hurried away and waited amongst some trees for the gentleman to come back with the signed pass. He had to have the Cardinal's pass. Naturally, the man refused to give it up, and D'Artagnan had to fight him for it. They fought fiercely for some time before the man at last gave in and handed over the precious piece of paper⁷⁰.

Breathing hard, D'Artagnan thrust the pass into his pocket and went to find a ship to take him to England.

The ship D'Artagnan chose had scarcely left harbour when a cannon boomed out⁷¹. The port had been closed. He had only just been in time. Worn out, D'Artagnan slept while the ship sailed across the Channel⁷². In the morning, he watched eagerly while the vessel dropped anchor in Dover. Soon he was on his way to London.

The young Frenchman knew no English, but he had the Duke of Buckingham's name written on a piece of paper. He was soon directed to the Duke's home, for everyone in London knew him. When he heard that

D'Artagnan had come, the Duke saw him at once. He remembered him from their meeting in the dark streets of Paris⁷³.

His face became grave when D'Artagnan told him of the Queen's danger.

'We must return the diamond studs to her. Louis must not find out she gave them to me!' he exclaimed. He unlocked the box in which they lay, with a key from a chain he wore round his neck⁷⁴. As he lifted the diamonds out, he gave a startled cry.

'Two of them are missing!'

'Can you have lost them, my lord?' D'Artagnan asked anxiously.

'They have been stolen,' the Duke replied grimly. He showed D'Artagnan where the ribbon holding the two missing studs had been cut⁷⁵.

'Wait!' said the Duke. 'I remember now. I wore them only once, at a Ball in London. Milady de Winter was there. She has never liked me, but she was unusually friendly. I wondered why. She must have taken them. She must be an agent of the Cardinal.'

He paced up and down, thinking⁷⁶. The Ball, D'Artagnan told him, was in five days' time. If Queen Anne appeared with two of the diamond studs missing, the King's anger would be terrible⁷⁷. The Cardinal would have succeeded. The Duke stopped suddenly and turned to the young Frenchman.

'Five days — that's all the time we need!' he exclaimed. 'I know what we must do.'

Buckingham sent for his secretary, and issued an immediate order. No ships were to sail for France, for he believed Milady de Winter was still in London. Such was his importance in the government that the order was carried out without question⁷⁸.

Next the Duke called for his jeweller, and showed him the set of diamond studs. He promised the man he would pay him well to make two studs exactly like them. They must be finished within two days, and made so that no one could tell the new from the old⁷⁹. The jeweller agreed, and hurried away to start work.

'We are not beaten⁸⁰, D'Artagnan!' cried the Duke.

Two days later the new studs were ready. The Duke and D'Artagnan examined them carefully. They had been so well made it was impossible to tell they were not part of the original set⁸¹. Now D'Artagnan could leave for France.

As his ship left Dover, he thought he saw Milady de Winter aboard one of the