

THE
WHITE CAT!

OR

PRINCE LARDIDARDI & THE RADIANT ROSETTA.

A Fairy Burlesque Extrabaganza.

BY

F. C. BURNAND, ESQ.

(Member of the Dramatic Authors' Society),

AUTHOR OF

Patient Penelope, or The Return of Ulysses ; Ixion, or the Man at the Wheel; Alonzo the Brave, or Faust and the Fair Imogene ; Villikins and his Dinah; Lord Lovel and Lady Nancy Bell; Romance under Difficulties; In for a Holiday; Dido; King of the Merrows; Deerfoot; Fair Rosamond ; Robin Hood, or The Foresters' Fete; Acis and Galataea; The Deal Boatman; Madame Berliot's Ball, or the Chalet in the Valley; Rumpelstiltskin, or The Woman at the Wheel; Snowdrop, or the Seven Mannikins and the Magic Mirror; Cupid and Psyche, or as Beautiful as a Butterfly; Ulysses, or the Iron-Clad Warrior and the Little Tug of War; Pirithous, the Son of Ixion; Windsor Castle; Dido (second edition); Paris, or Vive Lempriere ; L'Africaine (opera-bouffe); L'Africaine (burlesque, Liverpool); Boabdil el Chico, or the Moor the Merrier; Sappho, or Look before you Leap; Our Yachting Cruise (G. Reed's); Der Freischuts, or a good Cast for a Piece ; Antony and Cleopatra, or His-story and Her-story in Modern Nilo-metre; Olympic Games, or the Major, the Miner, and the Cock-a-doodle-doo; The Latest Edition of Black-eyed Susan, or the Little Bill that was Taken up; Guy Fawkes, or the Ugly Mug and the Couple of spoons; Helen, or Taken from the Greek; Mary Turner, or the Wicious Willin and Victorious Wirtue; The Contrabandista; or, Law of the Ladrones ; Humbug; Hit and Miss, or All my Eye and Betty Martin; Inquire Within (G. Reed's); Liverpool Edition of White Fawn; Julius Cnaesar; SirGeorge and a Dragon; Elizabeth, or the Don, the Duck, and the Drake; The Interpolated Libretto of Cox and Box; Beggar My Neighbour (G. Reed's); The Turn of the Tide; Morden Grange; Very Little Faust; The Military Billy Taylor; Richard the Third, or a New Front to an Old Dicky; Claude Duval; Beauty and the Beast, &c., &c.

AND PART AUTHOR OF

B. B.; Volunteer Ball; Turkish Bath; Carte de Visite; The Isle of St. Tropez; Easy Shaving; &c., &c.

THOMAS HAILES LACY,

THEATRICAL PUBLISHER,
LONDON.

First produced at the Globe Theatre (under the management of Miss Allecne), on Monday,
December 26th, 1870.

A Grand New Fairy Burlesque Extravaganza, entitled THE

W H I T E G A T T

OR,

PRINCE LARDI-DARDI AND THE RADIANT ROSETTA.

Written by F. C. BURNAND, Author of "Ixion," "Paris," "Helen," "L'Africaine," "Billy Taylor,"
"Black-eyed Susan, &c., &c."

The New and Magnificent Scenery by Mr. FREDERICK FENTON, Mr. J. JOHNSON, and Assistants. The Music
by Mr. VAN HAMME. The Properties by Mr. CHILP. The Gorgeous Costumes by Mr. S. MAY and Mrs. COOMBS.

Characters.

FAIRY PEOPLE.

THE FAIRY DRAGONETTA Miss EMILY BURNS.
GRUMPI (very bad Person) Mr. VALENTINE.
HUMPI-DUMPI (worse)
... .. (who subsequently turns out not nearly so black as he
has been painted) Mr. W. L. BRANSCOMBE.
THE QUEEN OF DREAMY DELL Miss ISABELLE ARMOUR.

ORDINARY MORTALS.

KING DAWDLE THE DODDLER Mr. GEORGE TEMPLE.
... .. (King of the Handy-Dandies)
QUEEN SEVERA Miss CLARA WESTON.
... .. (his Third Venture)
PRINCE LARDI-DARDI (Rightful Heir to the Crown of the Handy-Dandies, sent asleep by
the Fairy Dragonetta for One Hundred Years; he awakes in his Centenary fresher
than ever, and not a day older) Miss EMILY FOWLER.

PRINCE DAPPER ... (King David's Stepson, Son of Queen Severa) ... Miss Nelly Nisbet.
 PRINCE SPRIGHTLY ... (King David's first Son, Severa's Stepson) ... Miss Rose Roberts.
 LORD CHAMBERLAIN ... (without any Office) ... Mr. H. Rignold.
 BOBBINI ... (Chief of the Royal Police) ... Mr. Fourness Rolfe.

EXTRAORDINARY MORTALS.

PRINCESS ROSETTA (who is changed by the Fairy Dragonetta into THE WHITE CAT, because she refuses Dragonetta's Nephew, Humpi-Dumpi) ... Miss Mabel Montgomery.
 PRINCESS PAPILLONETTA } (her Friends, both turned into Cats on that account) { Miss Thorpe.
 PRINCESS PIROUETTA } { Miss Varcoe.
 SIX OTHER PRINCESSES (Names not mentioned here, for Family reasons, but all changed into Cats)

MISS TABBY ... (Governess to the Princesses) ... Mr. E. Danvers.
 EIGHT PRINCES (Friends of Prince Lardi-Dardi's, in love with the Princesses, including Papillonetta and Pirouetta above mentioned, and sharing their fate) ...
 POLLY ... (a Parrot) ... Mr. H. Lumsden.
 NOODLE ... (a Poodle) ... Mr. Barker.
 FIVE DWARFS (in attendance on Humpi-Dumpi—two pairs and a half of Snalls)
 MISS MCTABBY (an old Cat, placed by Dragonetta, to guard Princess Rosetta, as House-keeper at Katz Kastle) ... Grooms, Dogs, Cats, Fairies, &c., &c. ... Mr. E. Danvers.

Programme of Scenery and Incidents.

PROLOGUE.

SCENE.—DRAGON-FLY GARDENS.

The Princesses.—The Princess.—An Escape.—Return of the Bad Fairy.—Arrival of the Dwarf—Rescue by Lardi-Dardi
 —Tremendous Combat!—Virtue Unrewarded!—Vice Triumphant!—First Appearance of the Good Fairy—The Sentence mitigated—Prince Lardi-Dardi sent to sleep for 100 years—Princes and Princesses changed into Cats—Not to resume their forms until the White Cat (Rosetta's Head and Tail have been cut off by Prince Lardi-Dardi.

** *TEMPUS FUGIT TO THE EXTENT OF 100 YEARS BETWEEN THE PROLOGUE AND*

SCENE I.—**THE PALACE OF KING DAWDLE.**

Despondency—His two Sons claim the Crown—Centenary of Prince Lardi-Dardi—Re-appearance of that Young Gentleman—Enthusiasm of Populace—The King consents to give up his Crown on one condition—"A Little Wee Dog small enough to go inside a nut"—Departure of Princes.

SCENE II.—*The Forest of Katz Kradle Kastle.*

The Cats out Hunting—A Man—The White Cat receives Prince Lardi-Dardi—Miss Mc Tabby welcomes him—Cat Quartette—Invoking the Mews—Bobbini descends—Proposal for Dances and Songs to enliven the Visit—Suggestion carried *nem. com.*—Joviality and Sociability—Cat and the Fiddle.

GRAND BALLET OF CATS, by Madame COLONNA and Troupe,

Assisted by an augmented Corps de Ballet.

SCENE III.—**KING DAWDLE'S PALACE AGAIN.**

Return of Princes with Little Wee Dog—Failure—Success of Prince Lardi-Dardi—New conditions made—Sudden Appearance of the Black Dwarf as a friend—Departure of Princes in search of the loveliest Princess ever seen.

SCENE IV.—**BALL ROOM IN KATZ KRADLE KASTLE.**

Festivities in Honour of Princes—Thousand additional Lamps.

MASQUERADE OF CATS (New Characteristic French Dance), by Madame COLONNA & Troupe.

Miss Mc Tabby attaches herself to Bobbini—The White Cat suggests cutting herself short, which brings us to the conclusion and to the arrival of the Good Fairy, who, on the restoration of the Princes and Princesses, join all their hands in her own domain of

THE HAPPY LAND OF WAKING DREAMS.

THE WHITE CAT.

THE WHITE CAT.

PROLOGUE.

SCENE FIRST.—*The Gardens of the Palace belonging to the Fairy Snap Dragonetta.*

The PRINCESS ROSETTA discovered, R. on a bank of flowers, and kneeling to her is the PRINCE LARDI-DARDI ; grouped about are the BUTTERFLY MAIDENS in waiting on the Princess. Music,— " The Butterfly " from " Chilperic "—The Princess's PARROT is perched, L. on a stand; the Princess's DOG, a pet poodle, is lying down at the foot of the stand.

ROSETTA. (R.C.) Oh, my dear prince, 'tis strange, but since you came

You've never mentioned to me what's your name.
So quickly have the happy hours past,
I am afraid we're going it too fast.
What is your name ?

LARDI. (L. C.) My name is Lardi-Dardi.
I'm young, adventurous, perhaps fool-hardy;
I'm prince of all the noble Handy Dandies,
Whose kingdom is some way beyond the Andes,
Where you shall go if you will fly with me,
Dearest Rosetta.

ROSET. That can never be.

LARDI. You love another ?

ROSET. No, that is—I mean
You are the only man I've ever seen.
If other men resemble you—

LARDI. Rosetta!

(Music—piano)

ROSET. I'd still love you till I liked some one better;
But that will never be.

PAP. (R.) Ah ! what are these ?
 Some sort of men, I think—among the trees.

LARDI. (*crosses, R.*) They're my retainers, dear, all counts
 and barons,
 And other people paid to run on *arrans*.

PIROU. (L.) I vote that we who seldom get excitement,
 Admit-----

ROSET. Who?

PIROU. Every count in that indictment!

ROSET. For two hours more we're free; mind my in-
 structions.
 So enter, and-----

*Eight PRINCES enter, R. U ^E--the PRINCE'S NICE YOUNG
 MEN run in, and each one takes a partner—Music—chord.*

Don't stop for introductions;
 This is a pretty sort of morning call.
 I like you best though, Lardi, after all.

LARDI. Say before all! But tell me, sweet princess—
 For I'm immensely puzzled, I confess—
 Why can't you come with me and leave this place ?
 Why, until now have I but seen your face
 Up at some window in a lofty turret,
 So far removed, I though you were a *spurret* ;
 And though for months to meet you have I panted,
 And now am so delighted—

ROSET. We're enchanted.
 That is, we're charmed, as every legend tells,
 By the bad Fairy Dragonetta's spells,
 Which she compounds of very horrid mixtures.
 We're fixed here.

LARDI. Happy tenant with such fixtures.

ROSET. This day she spends beneath the Gnome King's
 dome—
 Who's not a man, although he is, *un homme. (a gnome)*
 And all the dwarfs next week will come in carriages,
 To perpetrate a series of marriages.
 (*exclamation of horror from ALL*)

LARDI. (*groans for pity*) A dwarf wed you! I cannot
 bear the thought of it.

ROSET. Well, now I've told you all the long and short
 of it;

For a few hours we are free to-day,
While, as I've said, the fairy is away.

PIROU. And our old governess, Miss Tabby, whom
We hate, is indisposed, in her own room;
She's got a toothache—from restraint we're free'd.
ROSET. (*to PRINCESSES*) Don't you all hate old Tabby?
OMNES. Yes.

*Enter Miss TABBY, L. U. E.—crosses down, L. C.—she
carries a large birch rod.*

Miss T. Indeed!
LARDI. Talk of the-----
Miss T. Thankee, sir. I'm not *aweer*
I spoke to you, young man; you don't lodge here.
Be off! or with my birch I'll make each youth ache.
I'll show you what it is to have the toothache.
LARDI. We don't intend to move.
Miss T. Then I shall speak
To Dragonetta—and at once!
OMNES. Yah, sneak!
Miss M. Sneak! have I lived for that? I may be crabby!
But not a sneak, no; you don't know Miss Tabby!
My young affections long ago were blighted,
My aspirations crushed—my love was slighted;
But when I look around, I feel my heart
Is still susceptible to Cupid's dart.
Therefore, young people, dance, make love and play,
Gather your little rosebuds while you may;
Don't say I told you, and I'll see you through it,
If you (*to LARDI*) can take us all away from here,
then do it.
LARDI. I have a fairy godmother.
ROSET. That's jolly!
LARDI. But how to send a note there?
PARROT. (L.) Pretty Polly!
LARDI. (*crossing to L. C.—ROSETTA to MISS TABBY, R.*)
Polly, who used to bring your little billets,
More faithful than the trustiest of gillies;
You'll take this post-card, say—
PARROT. With pleasure, yes.
LARDI. How gracious! quite the height of *poli-tesse*;

And as you talk by nature's kindly laws,
 Go sweetest of macaws and plead *ma cause*.
 (*gives PARROT the post-card—PARROT goes up, L.*)

ROSET. And now, until she comes to help us through it,
 What's to be done ?

LARDI. (L. C.) Oh, nothing!

Miss T. (B.) Well, let's do it.

Verses and Chorus—"Moonlight Walk"

ROSET. (c.) At four o'clock we'll take a drop,
 Of fashionable tea;
 If Dragonetta will but stop
 Away—how glad we'll be.

Miss T. We dine at eight, 'tis nice and late,
 We lunch 'twixt one and three.
 And we all flock at four o'clock, (*dances*)
 To our chat and cup of tea.

ROSET. Oh!
 There's nothing half so pleasant
 As a cup of tea;
 A cup of tea, a cup of tea,
 It is the present fashion
 In societee,
 And just suits me—that's me.

CHORUS. Oh! there's nothing half so, &c.

LARDI. I dearly like a cup of tea,
 And all my friends do too ;
 Champagne or Hock, whate'er it be,
 So that it be with you.
 And then we'll talk,
 And take a walk,
 When I am sure you'll let,
 My friends and me,
 When we've some tea,
 Enjoy a cigarette.
 Oh!
 There's nothing half so jolly
 As a cigarette,

A cigarette, a cigarette.
 You want a fellow who,
 Can make a cigarette,
 While making love—that's me.

*(Chorus repeated—the PRINCE and his retinue with
 cigarettes—Exeunt R., all the principal PRINCES
 and PRINCESSES in couples, R. and L.—PARROT
 and DOG off, R. 2 E.—stepping to tune)*

*Music—Enter, L. 2 E., the FAIRY DRAGONETTA attended by
 GRUMPI and DRAGON IMPS, L.*

DRAGONETTA. For twenty minutes at the front door ringing,
 And small stones up at the front windows flinging,
 Until remembering that I am a fairy,
 I took a flight of steps down to the airey;
 And being up to the whole bag of tricks,
 Passed through the wall which gave to me like bricks;
 And here I am two hours early—I'm
 A fay much in advance of her own time.

(previous chorus repeated outside)

But what is this! *(singing)* I hear the sound of revelry;
 Harmonious demonstrations ! tuneful devilry;
 Fee, fi, fo, fum! I think I get a whiff,
 A sort of scent—fee, fi, fo, fum—a sniff
 Of something I have fi'd, fo'd, fum'd and fee'd ;
 And in my garden I detect a weed.
 Who's smoking ? Some one wanting in urbanity,
 To whom the strong *Havannah* is a vanity.
 It is Prince Lardi Dardi. *(music diabolique as before)*
 Go, good Grumpi.

Summon at once, the Gnome King Humpi Dumpi;
 Here is a dragon ready saddled—quick!

*(DRAGON rises, R. C.—GRUMPI mounts—the DRAGON
 is restive)*

GRUMPI. He kicks!

DRAGONET. Pooh, pooh, he's too well reared to kick.
 Sharp as electric shock fly through the air.

GRUMPI. I'm off!

DRAGONET. You will be if you don't take care.

*(business with restive DRAGON, he is at last started
 and flies off, R. to L.—GRUMPI holding on)*

Oh! here she comes ! O'er Lardi Dardi, I
Have not full power yet, but by-and-bye,
Unguarded by the fay of Dreamy Dell,
I'll catch him on the hop.

Re-enter, R., PRINCESS ROSETTA, GIRLS and Miss TABBY.

I hope you're well ?
ROSET. I didn't think you would return so soon.
We've just been taking tea-----

DRAGONET. Yes, with a *spoon!*
And in the absence of your fairy guardy,
You've not had buttery bread, I think—but *lardy.*

ROSET. Oh, no, *miladi.*

Miss T. Well, (*crossing to c.*) Miss Rosetta, but-----

DRAGONET. Get out, you're old enough to know much
better. (*Miss TABBY to L., DRAGONETTA to c.*)

ROSET. We've only had some tea.

DRAGONET. Princess, you see.
Though tea is green, there is no green in D,
And D means Dragonetta.

ROSET. If it do,
D must be dreadful, when it *de means* you.

DRAGONET. If you've had tea, I think you've had some
cup with it.

JONQ. Saucer-er! (*DRAGONETTA, C.*)

DRAGON. You pert minx, I'll not *pert* up with it
(*tremendous rapping—thunder—music*)

Re-enter GRUMPI.

GRUMPI. (L.) The Gnome King waits!

DRAGONET. (*up c.*) Well, he can come in, can't he ?
He's welcome, for he is my *nephew, ar'nt he ?*

ROSET. He comes. Whate'er may happen, we'll be true!
If you can help us, Lardi Dardi, do.

*Music.—Enter DWARFS dancing, then HUMPI DUMPI, who
gets c., and sings.*

Song.—" Grand Duchesse."

Little men coming,
Little band drumming,
Little truce humming.

Little dwarf Humpi,
 T'other name Dumpi,
 Not a bit grumpy,
 Little bit stumpy.
 How de do do doo ?
 Coming to woo you,
 When I first knew you,
 I'd have said to you,
 Pretty Rosetta,
 Very much better
 Take Cupid's fetter,
 Wedding ring—bang ! (*clash with cymbals*)

HUMPI. (C.) Come with a call we have and with a hoop.
 I'm Humpi Dumpi—and Performing Troupe.
 Such an amount of talent is quite rare,
 We are all here, and I may add—all there,
 Seldom will you such handsome fellows meet.

ROSE. You're short and nasty ?

HUMPI. No, I'm short and *suite*—
 (*pointing to his ATTENDANTS*)
 Come to my little palace in Short's Gardens;
 You shall have heaps of money—all in fardens.
 For though I'm short, yet I'm a millionaire ;
 You'll have a *plum*—we'll make a pretty pair.
 (*goes to L.*)

DRAGONET. (C.) Accept my nephew's hand.

HUMPI. (L.) You'll come to Court with me ?

ROSE. (R.) He's not sweet tempered, and he will be short
 with me.

HUMPI. (*savagely*) I will, if you don't all say yes.

ALL. No, no.

HUMPI. Then seize 'em, little 'uns, and off we go.
 (*general dance, DWARFS rushing to seize PRINCESSES—
 Air—Duett in Act 2, " Chilpèric"*)

*Enter LARDI DARDI and FOLLOWERS from R. U. E., dancing,
 and kicks HUMPI down, tableau.*

LARDI. Low ruffian!

HUMPI. LOW ! all right! just mind your heye!

DRAGONET. Hold! you forget your aunt, the fairy's, by.

Ain't you astonished, sir, to see a fairy ?

LARDI. No, not at all—my rule's *nil admirari*.

HUMPI. I don't want any magic spells to smash him;
Come out, my little battle-axe, and thrash him.

ROSET. Were it a tournament on horses' backs-----

HUMPI. Horses! right through his skull we'll drive our
'acks (axe).

(LARDI DARDI, R. C., plays a defiance on a trumpet)

HUMPI: Let me attack that sort of opera duffer;

Lay on Mc Duff! (*tauntingly*) They won't lay on
Mc Duffer.

(*Music—combat between battle-axe and rapier—
the DOG and PARROT join in fight—the PRINCE
is beaten down on one knee and loses his sword
—ROSETTA faints*)

DRAGONET. Now crack his crown and bear away the belle.

VOICE. (*without*) Hold!

DRAGONET. Who is that ?

VOICE. (*without, c.*) The Queen of Dreamy Dell.

(*HUMPI's axe suddenly breaks in two—he falls, L.—
the QUEEN OF DREAMY DELL, with her FAIRIES
appear*)

QUEEN OF D. D. Prince Lardi, for your amorous temerity,

You'd have been punished by my foe's severity ;

To save you from her power—for a number

Of years—we send you off into a slumber;

For just one century—not one day more.

LARDI. One last—(*about to embrace ROSETTA, falls
asleep*)

ROSET. One fond—oh! he's began to snore.

DRAGONET. You've hurt my nevy, my revenge for that's

To change you ladies into-----

ALL. What, ma'am?

DRAGONET. Cats.

(*scream from ALL*)

Till some one cuts your heads and tails off, then-----

QUEEN OF D. D. (*quickly, gets c.*) Then you'll resume
your forms.

DRAGONET. (*crossing, L.*) Ah ! sold agen!

Enter QUEEN SEVERA, L.

QUEEN. What, Dawdle! not yet finished dressing?
Not shaved! I cannot kiss you.

KING. How distressing!

QUEEN. Your head's wool gathering.

KING. I wish it were,
For then it wouldn't be so very bare.

QUEEN. All night you've nothing done but fuss and fume,
Start up, lie down! then walk about the room!
Then paced, and paced, and paced!

KING. (*in* L. C.) My queenly chuck,
With such a lot of paste I should have stuck,
But for the motive power—like machinery—
Which cries out "Sleep no more! (*bringing the*
CHAMBERLAIN *and* QUEEN *forward*) It's his
centenary!"

QUEEN. (L.) His? Who's?

CHAMB. (R.) Who's his?

KING. Eh, do not ask me whose,
He will wake up and step into these shoes.
Prince Lardi Dardi, who for generations,
Has been a constant care to his relations—
Who sleeps, and 'tis predicted, in my reign,
To-day, at one o'clock, wakes up again. (*gets* L.)

Enter PRINCE DAPPER, R.—CHAMBERLAIN *to* R.

DAPPER. Well, let him wake, and precious wide awake
He'll be, the crown, from Dapper, me to take.

KING. I tell you what it is, my forward Dapper,
The crown is on the head of your old *pappa*!
And he does not intend to give it you.
He'll see himself—(*catches* SEVERA'S *eye*)—much
further if he do.

DAPPER. (R. C.) You are too old for anything but caudle,
With Cromwell, I'll observe, "Remove that Dawdle."

QUEEN. Don't mind him, he's a trifle spoiled.

CHAMB. I've learned,
That trifles spoiled, have generally turned.

QUEEN. He does talk sense, you're getting old and passé,
In business a mere donkey. (*crosses*, L.)

KING. *Assez! Assez!* (*crosses back to c.*)



