

*Harlequin Tom the Piper's Son* (1847) was revived by T. Chambers in Geelong in early March.

## THE GOBLIN OF THE GOLD COAST; OR, HARLEQUINA AND THE MELBOURNITES IN CALIFORNIA: [pantomime] Lib/Mus. [n/e]

Including a cast of "Celestials," "Terrestrials" and "Infernals" (in the form of the Demon of Discord, Platina the gold King, and imps named Ironspark, Pinchbeck, Quicksilver, Virgin Gold and Copperas). This is believed to have been Melbourne's first pantomime, and interestingly, as Margaret Williams' notes, celebrated both the advent of gold fever and the city's newly acquired affluence and respectability (56).

One of the songs known to have been performed during the production (by Mr Montague) was "an entirely new parody 'Hurrah! Hurrah! For The Gold'" (qtd McGuire, 88).

**NB:** Surprisingly, no record of this pantomime has yet been located using *Trove* (National Library of Australia's digital newspaper resource). Two searches were carried out on 15 November 2015. The first was a specific search directed at the weeks immediately surrounding 13 May 1850 using a variety of key words and phrases from the above abstract (all of which has been sourced from *Australia on the Popular Stage*, which in turn appears to use the 1948 McGuire et al book as its source). The second search spread the temporal parameters further afield to include any possible production between 1840 and 1860. It is therefore unclear where Paul McGuire, Betty Arnett and Frances Margaret McGuire located this work.

**1850:** Queen Street Theatre, Melbourne; 13 May  
- **Cast** incl. Mr Montague.

McGuire, Paul et al. *The Australian Theatre, The*, 88.  
Williams, Margaret. *Australia on the Popular Stage*. (1983), 56.

## HARLEQUIN SEPARATION; OR, THE DEMON OF SYDNEY AND THE FAIRY OF VICTORIA: [pantomime] Lib/Mus. [n/e]

Geelong's celebration of separation included, according to the *Geelong Advertiser*, "a most correct representation of the bay, jetties, and shipping at the Point" (2). The paper's theatre critic further records:

In accordance with time-honoured custom-Boxing Night brought with it its pantomime-its mysteries, mishaps, thumps, bumps, tumbles, and magic transformations which seemed to be relished as in days of yore, and was greeted with peels of hearty laughter from the first scene to the finale of red fire, and consummation of the lover's happiness (2).

The pantomime was written expressly for the occasion (*Geelong Advertiser* 24 Dec. 1850, 3).

**1850:** Theatre Royal Theatre, Geelong (Victoria); 26, 30 Dec.  
- **Prod.** Henry Elmes; **S Art.** Mr Wallis; **Orch Ldr.** Mr Stainsby; **Mech.** Mr Martin.

"[Theatre, The](#)." *Geelong Advertiser* 28 Dec. (1850), 2.

**ON THURSDAY EVENING,  
December 26, 1850,**

The evening's entertainments will commence with an entirely new Christmas Pantomime, with new scenery, dresses, tricks, properties, machinery, dances, transformations, &c., written expressly for this occasion, entitled,

**HARLEQUIN  
SEPARATION;**

OR, THE  
DEMON OF SYDNEY AND THE  
FAIRY OF VICTORIA!

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The evening's amusement will conclude with the

**THE REVOLT**

OF THE  
**Workhouse.**

*Geelong Advertiser* 24 Dec. (1850), 3.