

1850

The Chambers family revived at least two of Mr T. Chambers works/adaptations from earlier years during 1850. *Harlequin Tom the Piper's Son* (1847) was produced in Geelong, Victoria on 11 and 15 March, while *Don Juan; Or, The Libertine Destroyed* was presented in the same town on 27 June and 1 July. The family later took up residence at the Queen's Theatre, Melbourne, where they included *Don Juan* during a benefit on 19 August. The Chambers' staged it again later in the year after returning to Geelong (23 Dec.). A selection of comic scenes from *King Pippin* (1849) were also revived at the Royal Victoria Theatre, Sydney, in mid-June (as part of the entertainment presented during *Whittington and His Cat*).

TRANSPORTATION VERSUS EMIGRATION; OR, HARLEQUIN IN LAUNCESTON: [pantomime] Lib/Mus. [n/e]

Presented as part of a benefit program given "to several persons who were formerly members of the Olympic company," Transportation versus Emigration is described in advertising as "a grand comic pantomime."

1850: Olympic Theatre, Launceston (Tas); 3 Apr.

Cornwall Chronicle (Launceston, Tas)
3 Apr. 1850, 215.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.
Easter Week.
SECOND NIGHT OF A GRAND COMIC
PANTOMIME.
Benefit Night
FOR SEVERAL PERSONS WHO WERE
FORMERLY MEMBERS OF THE
OLYMPIC COMPANY.
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3
The evening's entertainments will commence
with, for the second time a Grand Comic
Pantomime, entitled,
TRANSPORTATION
Versus EMIGRATION!
Or, HARLEQUIN IN LAUNCESTON.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEST MAITLAND.
For the Benefit of Mr. Lee, Manager
MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 29th, 1850.
MR. LEE begs to announce to his friends and the patrons of the drama that his Benefit will take place as above, on which occasion he respectfully solicits their patronage.
The entertainments will commence with a new Grand Comic Pantomime, entitled,
HARLEQUIN AND THE FAIRY DOGS?
OR,
THE RED GNOME AND THE BUNIP FIEND!
Written by Mr. Lee for the purpose of displaying to the greatest advantage the sagacity of his Wonderful Dogs.
In the Pantomime will be introduced Songs and Dancing, and Tricks never before attempted.
Negro Melody, Amateur. Song, Mrs. Norton.
After which, a Romantic Drama, called,
FATHER AND SON.
Song..... Mr. Bell.
To conclude with, for the first time, a laughable Farce, called,
THE MARRIED BACHELOR; or, MASTER AND MAN.
For particulars see bills.

Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW)
27 Apr. 1850, 3.

HARLEQUIN AND THE FAIRY DOGS; OR, THE RED GNOME AND THE BUNYIP FIEND: [pantomime] Lib. Mr Lee; Mus [n/e]

Described as a "new grand comic pantomime," *Harlequin and the Fairy Dogs* was especially written by Mr Lee for the purpose of displaying to the greatest advantage the sagacity of his wonderful dogs." The pantomime, which "introduced songs, dancing and tricks never before attempted," was staged as part of a benefit for its author, who was also manager of the venue.

1850: Theatre Royal, West Maitland (NSW); 29 Apr.

- Cast incl. Mr Lee and his trained dogs
- The remainder of the entertainment comprised a drama, *The father and Son*," and a farce, *The Married Bachelor*. A "nigger" melody and two songs were given between the two pieces.

"Theatricals." *Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser* (NSW) 27 Apr. 1850, 2.

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 Arnott and Frances Margaret McGuire located this work.

1850: Queen Street Theatre, Melbourne; 13 May

- Cast incl. Mr Montague.

McGuire, Paul, Betty Arnott and Francis Margaret McGuire. *The Australian Theatre: An Abstract and Brief Chronicle in Twelve Parts*. London: Oxford UP, 1948, 88.

Williams, Margaret. *Australia on the Popular Stage*. Melbourne: Oxford UP, 1983, 56.

WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT; OR, THE MERRY DAYS OF THE 14TH CENTURY: [pantomime] Lib/Mus [n/e]

Described as an "extravaganza," *Whittington and His Cat* was presented along with an interlude of "Shocking Events," and a selection of comic scenes from King Pippin, the pantomime staged at the same theatre the previous year.

1850: Royal Victoria Theatre, Sydney; 15 June

Sydney Morning Herald 15 June 1850, 4.

ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.
THIS EVENING, JUNE 15, 1850,
Will be presented the Extravaganza, entitled
**WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT; OR, THE
MERRY DAYS OF THE 14TH CENTURY.**
Master Fitzwarren, Mr. Rogers; Hugh Dot-
trell, Mr. J. Howson; Master Wilmer, Mr.
Willis; Dick Whittington, Madame Torning;
Shipman, Mr. Torning; Muley Moloe, Mr.
F. Howson; Alcide Belle Poule, Mr. Arabin;
Alice Fitzwarren, Mrs. Guerin; Ursula, Mrs.
Gibbs; Princess Zaide, Mrs. Rogers; Zulma,
Madame Carandini; Fatima, Mrs. Willis; the
Cat, Mr. Hollis. To be followed by the
Interlude of **SHOCKING EVENTS.** To
conclude with the Comic Scenes from the
Pantomime of **KING PIPPIN.**

HARLEQUIN JACK AND THE BEANSTALK; OR, THE GIANT OGRE AND THE ELFIN KING: [pantomime] Lib/Mus. [n/e]

Described in advertising as "an entirely new comic pantomime, with new scenery, dresses and decorations." In reviewing the first performance the *Cornwall Chronicle* reviewer records:

Jack and the Beanstalk. - Last night the boxes of the Theatre were filled with juveniles and their friends to witness the new pantomime. Many a youthful heart beat high as the overture finished, and the preparatory bell announced the rising of the green curtain. Oh, the merry days of boyhood to gape, with mute astonishment, at the giant whose mouth is sufficiently capacious to contain half-a-dozen children - and then the shouts of laughter that greet the detection of Clown's roguish propensities, and the red-hot poker which, by mistake, he puts into his pocket, and the bump and slap received by pantaloons, and the swallowing of a carrot a yard long, and the trips, tricks, and transformations. Of a truth, it is worth the price of admission to sit and watch the varied emotions depicted in the physiognomical development of the amazed and delighted rosy faced urchins. Mrs. Macknight, as Jack, looked exceedingly well, and all the pantomimists acquitted themselves satisfactorily ("Local," 644).

1850: Royal Olympic Theatre, Launceston (Tas); 30 Sept., 4 Oct.
- **Prod/Dir.** Mr Deering.
- **Cast** incl. Mrs Macknight.
- The pantomime was presented along with two farces and a banjo song

"Local." *Cornwall Chronicle* (Launceston, Tas) 1 Oct. 1850, 644.

"Treat for the Classes, A." *Cornwall Chronicle* (Launceston, Tas) 21 Sept. 1850, 621.

TUMILIERE; OR, THE INVISIBLE COOPER: [pantomime] Lib/Mus. [n/e]

Described in the *People's Advocate* as a "good lark" and one in which "awful and unaccountable disappearance of one of those respectable tradesmen opened the eyes of the youngsters in amazement" (5).

1850: Malcolm's Adelphi Hotel, York Street, Sydney; 11, 16, 18 Nov.
- Company: Royal Australian Equestrian Circus
- **Prod.** Mr La Rosiere.
- **Cast** incl. Mr Gard (father of the Coopers/Old Clown), Mr Williams (favourite son), Mr La Rosiere (idiot son), Mr Clark (Captain Wiseman), Mr Feuillade (servant/Riding Master), Master Glover (Young Clown).
- Staged as the final entertainment on an otherwise circus-based program.

"Royal Australian Equestrian Circus." *People's Advocate and New South Wales Vindicator* (Sydney) 23 Nov. 1850, 5.
Sydney Morning Herald 11 Nov. 1850, 3. **Advert.**

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 (Vic); 26, 30 Dec.
- **Prod.** Henry Elmes; **S Art.** Mr Wallis; **Orch Ldr.** Mr Stainsby; **Mech.** Mr Martin.

"Theatre, The." *Geelong Advertiser* (Vic) 28 Dec. 1850, 2.

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

ON THURSDAY EVENING,
December 26, 1850,
The evening's entertainments will com-
mence with an entirely new Christ-
mas 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!
The evening's amusement will conclude
with the
THE REVOLT
OF THE
Workhouse.

Theatre Royal
GEEELONG.

SPLENDOUR! NOVELTY!!
GRAND JUVENILE TREAT!!!

The Ladies, Gentlemen and Families of Geelong are most respectfully informed, that in accordance with the usages of the times,

A GRAND COMIC PANTOMIME
Has been prepared for the amusement of the Juvenile Classes during their relaxation from study. The scenery is entirely new, painted by Mr William Duke. from the Theatres Sydney and Hobart Town. The dances arranged by Mr. Chambers. Machinery by Mr. Martin. Properties by Mr Wallis. The whole of the Comic Business arranged by Mr Howard

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!

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

Last updated: 20/11/2022

Expanded and updated from Clay Djubal, "What Oh Tonight" (Appendix C), Ph D Diss (2005) U of Qld.

NB: The URL for this PDF will change each time it is updated. If you wish to cite or link to this record, please use the following:

Clay Djubal. "1850." *Australian Variety Theatre Archive*, 1850s.

<http://ozvta.com/1850s>