

# JUVENILE ENTERTAINER.

"Torquet ab obscaenis jam nunc sermonibus aurem."

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## THE JUVENILE ENTERTAINER

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### CONDITIONS.

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

### DRESS.

Cecilia was the only daughter of wealthy parents; she had spent her childhood chiefly in the country, in simple and industrious habits, and had heard from her parents and those employed in her education, little else said of the value of money, than the various good purposes to which it may be applied, for the promotion of religion and the benefit of our fellow creatures.

Cecilia had been accustomed to be dressed as plainly as her rank in society admitted, and though not in herself wiser than other children, her attention had never yet been called to the decoration of her person. When she was just turned fourteen, her mother's health required that she should go for a time to a fashionable bathing place for the benefit of the waters. Cecilia accompanied her mother to this place, and was not a little pleased with the elegance of the edifice, to which she went every day with her mother to drink the waters. The gardens surrounding the building were extremely beautiful, and an orchestra was placed amidst the trees, from whence were heard strains of music, sometimes loudly swelling, and at other times dying away upon the ear as they were borne away by the breeze. Besides these things, various little elegant figures in the newest style of dress excited Cecilia's admiration, and led her to form reflections very prejudicial to many of her accustomed simple habits, more especially to her mode of dress. In consequence of all this, her mind was in a state which it is easy to picture to ourselves, when a dressmaker was sent for to make up some new silk which her mother had just purchased for her. It happened that while Cecilia's mamma was engaged in giving directions respecting the frocks, she was suddenly called out of the room, and Cecilia was left alone with the dressmaker, who was just measuring the length of a skirt, and pinning the number of tucks which the silk would require. "It is a pity," said the dressmaker, turning the silk first on one side and then on the other, "that this beautiful silk should not be made up more as they are worn—a flounce would look much better than all these tucks."

"Do children of my age wear flounces?" asked Cecilia.

"O yes," said the dressmaker, "I made a dress last week for a young lady not so tall as you are, and it had three flounces. I dare say you have met the young lady in the pump room, she generally wears a hat tied with sky blue ribbons, and a small wreath of white roses round the crown, and she is very pretty; but I think you would become dress quite as much as she does." "Mamma likes me to be dressed plainly," said Cecilia, half sighing. "Your mamma must know best to be sure, yet I do not know who is to be dressed if young ladies of your fine fortune are not, who can so well afford it." Just then a step was heard on the stairs, and as the handle of the door was turned, the dressmaker said in haste, "do, pray ma'am, ask your mamma to allow one flounce on your frock and if you would favor me with a call at No.—, in Regent Street, I could show you some beautiful hats, much more becoming to young ladies than those cottage shape bonnets." The entrance of Cecilia's mamma put an end to the dressmaker's discourse, but not to the train of thoughts which it had suggested to the young lady's mind. Cecilia took the first opportunity of making a petition to her mamma for a flounce upon her dress, a request which her mamma thought it fit to deny, though she laid little stress on its importance or unimportance.

Cecilia had no intention of communicating to her mother what was passing in her mind, not because she was in the habit of concealment, but because she was hardly aware herself of the power this newly acquired love of dress was gaining upon her. But out of the abundance of the heart the mouth will speak. From time to time the subject of dress was brought forward sometimes the opinion of the milliners was quoted, "that young ladies of fortune should dress well;" then her mamma was asked to call at Regent Street; then it was enquired if her papa was really so very rich a man; then continual remarks were made upon the dress of the ladies whom they met upon the parades and in the pump room; many earnest wishes were expressed for decorations like theirs, and much dissatisfaction at the simplicity of the dress which Cecilia had hitherto worn.

Cecilia's mamma at first only smiled at all this but becoming aware in a short time how strong a hold these vanities were gaining over her child's mind, she ceased to smile, and listened in silence, till Cecilia, unawares to herself, unfolded to her mother all the vanity of her heart.

It is easy to suppose that these vain and foolish thoughts agreed ill with heavenly hopes and tempers, so that Cecilia's state of mind was not at this time in any respect desirable. Several weeks had passed away, and there was a prospect of many more being spent in this gay place, as the water was very beneficial to Cecilia's mamma. When one day as the mother and daughter were sitting together, the following discourse took place.

Mother.—As we are likely to remain here sometime longer, Cecilia, it is your father's wish that you should learn to ride, and I am going to order a riding dress for you.

Cecilia.—Thank you, dear, mamma, what a riding habit?

"Yes, my dear, and I have got a pattern of one which you shall look at, and see if you approve; it shall be made as fashionable as you please."

Cecilia looked up as if she did not quite understand her mother, who took no notice of her enquiring look.

Mother.—And I have also sent for several other dresses for you to look at, and you shall choose what you please. You do not seem quite satisfied with the dresses I have hitherto chosen for you, and as you are now beginning to pass out of childhood, I shall leave you to exercise a little judgment in the choice of your own clothes.

"Mamma!" said Cecilia, looking both surprised and delighted.

Mother.—I have sent for a pattern of a morning dress and a pelisse to wear on the parades, an evening dress and some others which I am quite certain you will want; expence is of little importance to your father; it is his only wish that you should prepare yourself to wear all these dresses with suitable behaviour, therefore, you will choose what you please.

"Dear mamma, you are very kind."

"All these things are arranged in my dressing room ready for your inspection," said Cecilia's mother, rising from her seat. Cecilia rose to follow her, but though delighted with the prospect before her, she felt a little puzzled at such a sudden change in her mother's conduct towards her.

They went up stairs, and the dressing room was covered over with so beautiful an assemblage of silks, and muslins, riding dresses, all fashionably made up with gay hats and bonnets, and wreaths of flowers corresponding, that the dress maker's room in Regent Street was scarcely more inviting.

Remainder next week.

### A NOBLE SPIRIT.

It was a pleasant fortnight, and had passed rapidly, in which Mr. Hammer paid his long-promised visit to his friend Sir Edward Brackenbury. This excellent man was a widower, gracefully descending the vale of tears; for in acquiring the experience of age, he had not sacrificed his early cheerfulness and urbanity. His superior information, and gentleness of manner, united to the peculiar interest with which he regarded young persons, and delighted to gratify their inquiring minds, had powerfully engaged the attention of Charles and Horace Brackenbury, two intelligent sons of his worthy host. His amiable spirit had often found real pleasure in their society, and he never failed to render his conversation equally improving and agreeable. With much regret therefore, at the