SCENE FIRST

The Wicked Fairy as a little old woman sitting spinning R. in rather an empty room. Door S

WICKED FAIRY .- And so the old King thought By laws and proclamations fraught With heavy ponalties, to baulk Me of my vengoance ! Ha! ha! He little knew What woman's Jealousy sould do , That I would still my anger hold Until fifteen long years were told, E'en to the latest hour. For 'tis our Beauty's birthday, And through these halfs to-day She with her merry maids will stray, Opening here and there a door Will this lone corridor explore. And then I'll keep my vow. Hark! do I not their voices hear? Spin, my wheel, they'll soon be here Tremble, oh King, at my fierce bate. That wreaks on her so sad a fate, Despite thy kingly power.

(Voices and laughter heard outside door L.)

187 Voice. Here's a door, Beauty. Where does it lead to ? This is a hall we never saw before.

2nd Voick -Shall we try the handle and peep in ? 3RD Voice .-- Yes, quickly! why wait? we'll likely find some lumber, nothing more. (Door opens and one or two faces peep in and are withdrawn

again.) 280 Voice,-There's the funniest old woman !

38D VOICE .- What is she doing ?

2ED VOICE,-Twirling about a strange looking wheel and croning like a-

3RD Voice .- Oh, hush, Nellie! you forget she might hear (Door opens, and they come in contiously on tip-toe.; May we come in and see what you are making, good mother 7

WICKED FAIRY, -(aside) Good mother ! (aloud) Ay, that you may; a spinning-wheel is nothing strange. Nobler hands than mine, my gentle lady, have held the threads,

(They all gather round her facing audience, Beauty C) while the strenks.)

LADY NELLIE,-How easy it seems. Let me try, mother. LADY MAY .-- Oh, yes, do show us how to do it ! LADY BLOSSON .--- And me, too, please !

BRAUTY .- If it would not spott your work, we would like to turn the wheel awhile.



WICKED FAIR) .- Well, just a moment, lady. Stand you here and hold these threads, your foot just here. There, the thread is broken. Catch it quickly. I will turn. (Giving it a quicker turn Beauty strikes her finger against the reel and hurts (t.)

BEAUTY, Oh, Nellie, I have hurt my hand ! LADY NELLIE (Antiously) .--- Not much?

BEAUTY, -Oh no! I think not. But how strange! the room seems spinning like the wheel. I'll close my eyes; so drowsy I feel. (Fulling back toward Nellie, who, catching her, sinks on the lounge behind her and drops her head over

Reauty.) LADY NELLIE .- (Looking up with drowsy voice, says) I too would sleep! (And sinks her head again, the others falling asleep in graceful repose near. A soft lullaby played in the distance.)

WICKED FAIRY .-- Spin round, my wheel! Upon them all A contury's dreamless sleep shall full



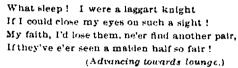


rises to the same distant lullaby. Door L. opens, and Prince Halbert enters in cap and sword,



PRINCE HALBERT .- (Coming we I ruard to front of stage and pushing aside his clock impatiently.)

I've ridden far o'er land and stream To prove the truth of but a dream, Through forest wild and mountain dale To find if true the old man's tale: Scaled high the sitent castle's wall, To prove if the spell can o'er me fall; Or if charm of health and youth, Girded with the sword of truth, More potent is than fairy spell. I'll wake to life the sleeping dell. Neglect here reigns on every side, Killed by weeds the flowers have died; The gaping gates, where sentry sleeps, While at her post the portress keeps A faithless watch, with half-closed eyes, 'Neath winter clouds and summer skies; The horse boy's head against the steed That stoops its head to take its feed. The coachmen in the door-way stand Waving to housemaid gallant hand; The cook, on mystery intent O'er sav'ry sauce has grey head bent; The scullery-maid with pot half-cleaned, Has paused in tale from gossip gleaned, The footmen, pages, maddens in the hall, The same dread spell has fallen on them all.



Bui Hark! I would not yet awake Such grace, such loveliness; nor take A moment from that hour of bliss (A pause) My heart! what beauteons form is this? (Advancing slowly to back of lounge, still facing audience.) Nearer I will creep, on light trp-toe steal, Close to this goddess; If the dream be real And I can touch those dainty finger-tips, Then, as the bee from rose-leaf honey sips I'll press upon her cheek my loving lips! (Leans forward and kisses Beauty, who opens her eyes.)

Curtain.

FINAL TABLEAU.

C: King and Queen R. v. .. In: Ladies Nellie, Blossom and May on either side; Facces in foreground; Wicked Fairy high up in background, with threatening broomstick in hand Nobles, Courtiers, Maids of Honout, Servants and Pages grouped at sides. Music-Wedding March.



Across the halls the spider spins his thread. The only life amid the living dead, And in security within its maze Reigns, Crusoe-like o'er all that he surveys. Methinks the spell I too begin to feel, And o'er my limbs delicions languors steal. I, too, could sleep, I'm weary from my ride; I'll doff my hat and lay my sword aside. (Takes of hat, and, turning, sees Beauty; throwing his hat at his feet starts a step nearer, and)