

SCENE IV.

The enchanted dell. Big moss-covered trunk of tree C. back, practicable to fall down in front; tree at R. wing, basket with big loaf and pie, etc., at foot. The King of the Fairies discovered leaning on golden axe.

FAIRY KING. Twice fifty years have passed since mortal tread

Has touched the enchanted dell so fair and dread.
The woodsmen shun it, and the peasants all
With trembling feet avoid our waterfall.
The village maidens pass another way,—
But sounds of voices fill the woods to-day.

(Eater NOBODY, L.)

Ha ! Cousin Nobody, you're welcome here,
As sailors say, " My hearty, come, what cheer ? "

NOBODY. I want your aid to spoil a little fun.

KING. With pleasure, what !

NOBODY.

An Ogre's pic-nic.

KING. (Shaking hands.)

Done !

I hate these mortal pic-nics in the wood,
They spoil the grass with corks and scraps of food,
With empty bottles, mess of every kind,
And leave a smell of ham and beer behind
That lasts for weeks.

NOBODY.

See, here's the pic-nic spread.

KING. Oh ! very good.

(Touches loaf, pie, etc.)

They'll find that's fairy bread.

Let's see what we can do to raise that pie.

(Croak of a bull-frog heard, NOBODY fetches it and puts it in pie.)