



THE SLEEPING BEAUTY.—AN ORIGINAL DRAMA FOR CHILDREN.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

Six Fairies, or Little People; Herald; King; Queen; Mistress of the Robes; a Doll in baby clothes; Nobles and Courtiers, *ad libitum*; Beauty; Lady Nellie; Lady Blossom; Lady May; Prince Halbert; Footman; Page; Wicked Fairy.

ACT I.

SCENE FIRST.

Curtain rises, disclosing six Fairies grouped about a kettle drum table taking 5 o'clock tea out of tiny cups.

1ST FAIRY.—*After doing the honours of the table.*
What fairy work have you all found
In mankind's paths, where sins abound?
Were there lovely maids to succor,
Or some gentler deed to do?
Severed friendships there to mend,
Or some faithless trust make true?

ALL.—Ay! ay! and so methinks have you.

2ND FAIRY.—I have dried a maiden's tears.

3RD FAIRY.—I chased away a coward's fears.

4TH FAIRY.—To a lone mother I returned her child,
And of a breaking heart its grief beguiled.

5TH FAIRY.—I have in Lethe laved all vain regrets.

6TH FAIRY.—I, from this tiny purse have paid men's debts.



1ST FAIRY.—In many a frolic I have borne a part,
Held sweet dominion o'er each childish heart,
Smoothed puckered brows, checked angry words
That cut both ways, like two-edged swords;
Made loving arms cling closer still;
Bent by love's charm the stubborn will;
Given to the birds a sweeter song,
The weak the power of the strong;
Have lent my aid where'er I could,
In little things done nought but good.
Enough! Now tell me what's the news,
What trifle doth the world amuse?

2ND FAIRY.—The good ship Victory is found again;

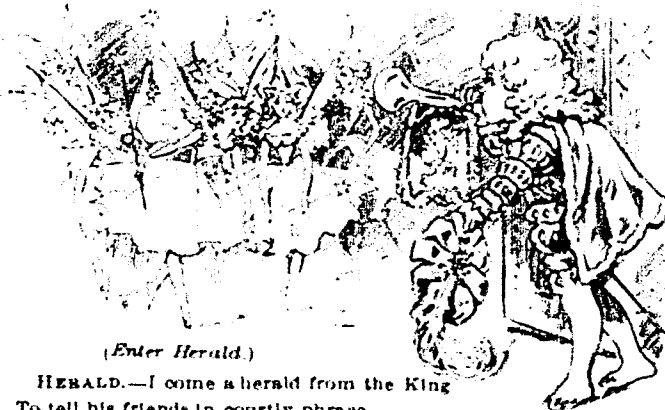
3RD FAIRY.—The fields are ripe with golden grain;

4TH FAIRY.—Rumours of war on every side,
Of arming men both far and wide.

5TH FAIRY.—Wisdom, 'tis said, will soon inspire
A man with wits to use a wire,
Across the world a message send
In instant flash from end to end.

6TH FAIRY.—Greyland's monarch, by all men blest,
In fine old age has gone to rest.

1ST FAIRY.—His son, then—*(A knock is heard at the door.)*
But hark! what cheer?
A knock upon the panel! Hear!



(Enter Herald.)

HERALD.—I come a herald from the King
To tell his friends in courtly phrase
Of the good-will he bears them.
Tender his grateful thanks for all
The kindly deeds that they have done;
To ask their aid that now he reigns
In his good father's stead,
Who, ripe with years,
Now sleeps amid his subjects' tears;
That when his reign is o'er, the sun
May set in sky as bright and clear
As closed the evening of his father's days.

ALL.—Yes, we'll help him, one and
If he be true he cannot fail. *[all.]*

HERALD.—And furthermore,
he'd have you know
His daughter is but ten days old,
To-morrow noon he holds high court
To present her to his nobles bold,
And would request your presence too,
If you will condescend to grace
His palace, and his child befriend.

1ST FAIRY.—Shall we go?

ALL.—It is best. *[the King]*

1ST FAIRY.—Then, Herald, to my lord
You will from us this answer bring,
That we are most honoured by
His bidding. That our sympathy
Is with him in his sorrow.
Further, at his court to-morrow
We will right willingly attend,
Express our thanks and then extend
Our wands of fairy fate, and bring
Gifts to the daughter of our King.

Curtain.

SCENE SECOND.

1ST FAIRY.—*(Stepping forward to touch the babe's hand.)*

Your nobles bold, most gracious King,
Have fealty sworn to this tiny thing;
The richest gifts of gold and land
Given by your courtiers bland,
My gift is small, but may it prove
All that I would—It is but Love
And sweetest temper o'er power
By man or maid by fairy blest.

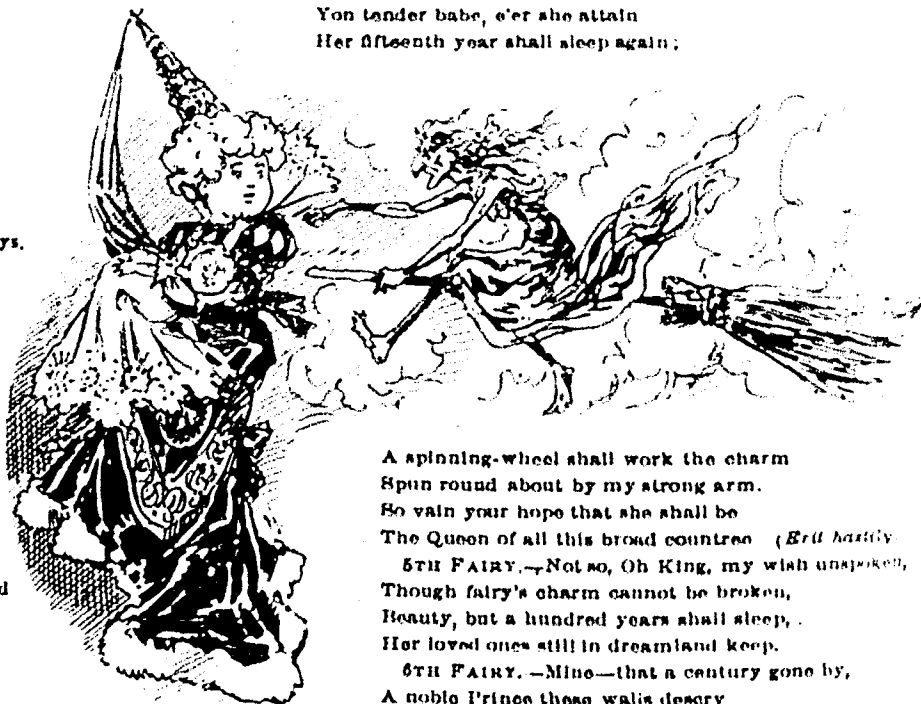
2ND FAIRY.—Mine, to add a lovely face,
A princely mien and subtle grace.

3RD FAIRY.—Mine—that while she lives the land
Will have wise men to guide her hand.

4TH FAIRY.—Mine—but wealth to speed aright,
Gladden the poor and make life bright.

5TH FAIRY.—Mine—but a—*(The door L. opens suddenly. Enter the Wicked Fairy.)*

WICKED F.—I come unbidden, but to be
Revenge for such discourtesy. *(Waving her wand.)*
Yon tender babe, e'er she attain
Her fifteenth year shall sleep again;



A spinning-wheel shall work the charm
Spun round about by my strong arm.

So vain your hope that she shall be
The Queen of all this broad country. *(Exit hastily.)*

5TH FAIRY.—Not so, Oh King, my wish unspoken,
Though fairy's charm cannot be broken,
Beauty, but a hundred years shall sleep,
Her loved ones still in dreamland keep.

6TH FAIRY.—Mine—that a century gone by,
A noble Prince these walls desery
And enter by the postern gate
Through sleeping forms to meet his fate;
See here a face so fair as this
And wake the Princess with a kiss.

Curtain.