

THE TRICKY TROUBADOUR.

PROLOGUE.

In Winnipeg lies the scene. In lieu of more
Convenient one, we may place the time about
The thirteenth century—an age, 'tis true, somewhat
Primordial in the history of the country.

Throughout the play,
There have been essayed base burlesques and parodies
Of the lines of Shakespeare, and of passages from
Byron, "*The Lady of Lyons*" and "*Richildeu*,"
Byron's "*Thanatopsis*," too, comes in for its share
Of murder foul. To all—profuse apologies
Are due, for interlarding puns, that were bad.

There has also been attempted
The mimicry of a style, peculiar to Rhea,
Emma Abbott, Kellogg and Bernhardt,—likewise the falls,
The faints, the fierce declamation, and tragic speech,
That exist only on the stage to picture,
In faulty imagery, the action of real life.

To those who seek, for study's sake,
Authority for the events, which are supposed
To have taken place at Winnipeg, may look up
Critically Professor Bryce's novel on
"Meddling with a Mound, or the Pastness of the Gone;"
Also read "*The Letters of Frank Lynn*," and "*McCharles*"
Story on "*The Founding of Scheme Town Junction*,
Embellished with Maps and Plans"—a work whose object
May give rise to some dispute. Future scientists
May claim 'tis a tale of a city dead and gone;
While others may call it an advertising book
To boom town property. If desirous,—critics
May consult "*C. N. Bell on Northern Geography*;"
While a careful study of *Waghorn's Diary*,
Will fix the hour, for the moon to rise in Act four.

GRAND ORCHESTRAL OVERTURE.

[CURTAIN.]

ACT I.—THE CHALLENGE.

SCENE.—*The Gardens of COUNT DI LUNA's Palace, steps at the back c.,
balustrade and railings, fountain scene in rear, wooded wings.*

GUARDS discovered grouped on the stage sleeping.

Enter FERRANDO down steps, followed by a burlesque brigade BUGLER with
foghorn. Stops suddenly at the sight of the sleeping GUARDS.

Ferr.—

Hello ! why I declare they are all asleep
Like proverbial police, their watches keep.