

MILDEBRAND.

ACT I.

CASTLE OF ELFRICKSTOWE. *Rotundo Interior set in 4. Platform, 2 feet high, following curve of setting, 2 feet distant, extending from R. to L. 3, surmounted by balustrade, except in C., where steps lead up to it. At C., back, a large bow window looking into garden. Doors R. C., L. C., R. 1 and 2, and L. 2.*

Furniture: Statuary, armor, tapestries, and antique seats. Table and chairs down R. C. Large lounge L. C. Curtain to music. Raimond and Mildred discovered seated at bay window, looking out and conversing in pantomime. Harold lying in front of lounge L. C.

Harold. (addressing his harlequin's wand):

Ho, ho ; my merry-andrew ! why so glum ?
Yes ; — I know, they made thee dumb.
Wise were they, without compassion,
Who framed thee after such a fashion.
Sphinx like, distant, ever mute,
Nursed in silence to be cute.

And yet, methinks, my merry-andrew,
There's many a stew we two could brew—
Red wine, the gossip's heart to fire
With gallant's love and maid's desire—
If nature, by some magic freak,
Would only let thy tongue but speak.

Ah ; selfish interest knew the better
When on thy lips it put the fetter.
Sacred now their secrets keeping—
Tho' I ween thou'st not been sleeping.
Sin still wears its saintly gown,
And dons a mask to hide the frown.

If thou could'st tell, and tell aright,
Of all the deeds that shrink from sight—
Of all the schemes that spell disaster
To lowly serf and lordly master ;
Lying intrigue, boasting lust of power—
Fleeting phantoms of a passing hour.