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PICTURES OF THE WEEK.

THE DANCER AND THE DUDE.

Mademoiselle Eliza Trippalli
Was a dancer in the ballet
'Round which darling dudes did rally
In the Bijou Theatre.
Flashing, floating, like a fairy,
Pretty, pert, petite and airy;
Such a charmer! There was nary
One with face so fresh and fair.

None, indeed, with optics dreamier,
Or with shortened skirts extromier,
Than this lovely danseuse premiere,
As she skipped behind the lights.
When compared with her the others
Seemed like giddy, gray grandmothers;
Each one rightly said that 'others'
Feet were big and fearful frights.

Like the foam on wave of ocean,
Rose and fell with graceful motion
Frisks and flounces—such commotion
Did Trippalli's tripping cause.
As she smiled and danced the faster
Peerless arms like alabaster—
Models fit for sculpturo-master—
Waved accord with grace's laws.

Percy Montmorency Noodlet
Was a darling little dudet
Who had cash and never would let
Ballet girls want wine and oysters.
Percy loved a roaring racket—
Percy's pocketbook could back it—
Loved a joke but could not crack it,
Braitless brat and boisterous.

Percy saw and loved Trippalli,
And he patronized the ballet.

Every night for weeks—a tally
Kept he of his daily doings,
Night and night he saw her dancing,
Skipping, pirouetting, prancing,
And one night he saw her glancing
At him in his wooings.

How his heart went pit-a-patty,
And how most uneasy sat he!
While he fumbled with his hat he
Thought of oysters, wine and—Venus!
Then he wrote a billet-doux,
And gave it to a boy in blue;
He said sweet things—(dear reader, you
shall hear its sweetness read between us).

"Darling dancer! here before thee
Sits a youth who does adore thee;
Let me meet thee, I implore thee,
Or my madd'ning mind must perish.
Let me meet those glances nearer,
Let me tell thee thou art dearer
Than all else; thine eyes are clearer
Than the stars—thy smile I cherish."

This the note that came in answer
From the beautiful ballet dancer:
"Come and see me when you can, sir—
When my work's done in the ballet.
Lest you lose yourself inside, you
Will come with the man beside you,
He will undertake to guide you
To Mademoiselle Elise Trippalli."

To the green-room with the stranger
Walked young Percy, scouting danger,
Hoped Elise had time to 'range her
Muslins nuzzled and features flustered.

At the door they tapped faintly,
Tapped lightly, tapped, daintly
Ere they crossed the threshold saintly—
Percy glad and courage mustered.

In an armchair, with a baby,
Sat a woman aged, maybe
Forty-five; with hairs as gray be
Those of badger—greyest tresses.
On a stand some paint and powder,
On a chair the scant clothes 'lowed her—
Sat she chewing some clam chowder,
Pigs' feet, hash and other meases.

Said the man: "Sir, I implore you
See the girl whose glances floor you,
This coy maiden now before you
Is Mademoiselle Elise Trippalli.
But, I tell you, on my life, sir,
When she's free, from starchy strife, sir,
She is well known as my wife, sir,
Missis Katharine O'Kelly."
—C. M. R.

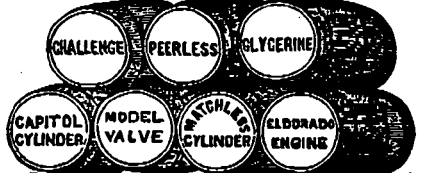
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