

The entertainments presented by the **Nelson's Family** typically comprised a first part musical vaudeville (involving individual turns presenting ballads and comic songs) and a second part musical farce/comedy.

## SQUATTERS AND GOLD DIGGERS; OR WHICH IS MY CHOICE: [pantomime]

**Lib/Mus.** [n/e]

"A ballet divertissement [sic] arranged for [the] occasion," with such characters as the Fair Maid of Victoria, Mr Barlamb Sheepface (a squatter), and Nuggity Spar (a gold digger). Among its novelties were a "Nugget pas de Deux," "A Bale of Wool Versus a Bag of Gold," a comic dance (by Mr Meadows), and a final dance by the cast. *Squatters and Gold Diggers* was one of the earliest pantomimes to prefigure the gold theme, a theme which came to prominence during the mid-fifties.

The musical element was presented through dance numbers, incidental music and songs. The dances included a Double Hornpipe, performed by Mdlle Veilburne and Mrs Stubbs.

**1852:** Theatre Royal, Geelong (Victoria); 12, 20 July

- **Cast:** Miss Veilburne (Fairy of the Magic Wand), Mde. Veilburne (Susan, Fair Maid of Victoria), Mrs Davis (Annette, her sister), Mrs Webster (Dame Grompy), Mr Carlos (Jeoffery), Mr Meadows (Barlamb Sheepface), Mrs Stubbs (Nuggity Spar), Mr Turner (Oliver Bounce), Mr Holloway (Jack Tar), Mr Shearcroft (Bill Roe), George Coppin (Bill), Mr Opie (Tom Tittle).

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pages.

State Library of Victoria. Coppin Collection. [3/30] Playbill.

Williams, Margaret. *Australia on the Popular Stage*. (1983), 52-3.

## THE SPORTING GENT; OR THE GREEN-EYED MONSTER: [musical farce]

**Txt.** F.M. Soutten; **Orig Mus.** Sydney Nelson

Advertised as a "musical vaudeville" in the *Argus* (10 Dec. 1852, 8), *The Sporting Gent* was written expressly for the Nelsons by F. M. Soutten, and presented as the second part of the programme. The characters are Charles Hedgoff, a "vacillating married man," his jealous wife, and the "sporting gent," Arthur Turfington.

Songs written for the 1852 production were the duets, "Oh, What a State of Fear," "Let Us Be United," (Alfred Nelson and Sara Nelson), the solo numbers, "Woman Rules You Still," and "I'm a Gent," (Cary Nelson), and a finale "If Our Friends Wish Us Well, We're Content" (finale).

Songs identified from 1855 were "What's the Matter" (duet), "Woman Rules You Still," "Let Us Be United," "I've a Secret" and "If Our Friends Wish Us Well, We're Content" (finale).

**1852:** Theatre Royal, Geelong (Victoria); 15-16 Nov.

- **M Dir/Arr.** Sydney Nelson.
- **Troupe:** Nelson Family.
- **Cast:** Alfred Nelson (Charles Hedgoff), Sara Nelson (Mrs Charles Hedgoff), Cary Nelson (Master Arthur Turfington).
- **Musician:** Sydney Nelson (piano).

**1852:** Protestant Hall, Melbourne; 10-14 Dec. 1852; 25 Jan. 1853

- Cast and production as for Geelong season.

**1853:** Protestant Hall, Melbourne; 8, 23 Mar.

- Cast and production as for Geelong season.

**1853:** Mechanics Institute, Melbourne; 22 Sept.

- Cast and production as for Geelong season.

**1854:** Mechanics Institute, Melbourne; 13 Apr., 16 June

- Cast and production as for Geelong season.

**1854:** Queen's Theatre, Melbourne; 14 Oct.

- Cast and production as for Geelong season.

**1855:** Royal Hotel, Sydney; 26 Apr.

- Cast and production as for Geelong season.

*Argus* 10 Dec. (1852), 8. Advert. [see below]

*Geelong Advertiser* 13 Nov. (1852), 2. Advert.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pages.

**THEATRE ROYAL GEELONG.—**  
 Nights of Performing—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.  
**THE NELSON FAMILY, MOST POSITIVELY FOR FIVE NIGHTS ONLY.**

**LIST OF THE COMPANY:—**Miss Nelson, Miss Carey Nelson, Mrs. Harward, Mrs. Stubbs, Mrs. Webster, Madame Veilburne, Mrs. Blmer, Mrs. Beauchamp, Miss Veilburne; Mr. S. Nelson, Mr. A. Nelson, Mr. Holloway, Mr. Shearcroft, Mr. Webster, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Charles, Mr. Hasker, Mr. Beauchamp, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Coppin.

•• The Manager in announcing the above combination of Talent, begs most respectfully to inform his friends and the public generally, that the very heavy engagement of the NELSON FAMILY renders it necessary to make the price of admission—Boxes, 5s; Pit, 2s 6d.

**MONDAY EVENING,**

The entertainment will commence with the popular Melo Drama, in three acts, entitled the **RAKE'S PROGRESS.**

Dance ..... Madame Veilburne.

To conclude with a New Farce, written for, and performed by, the Nelson Family with great success throughout England and Scotland, entitled **THE SPORTING GENT; or, the GREEN EYED MONSTER.**

Mr. Charles Hedgoff, a vacillating married man, Mr. A. Nelson, Mrs. Charles Hedgoff, his jealous spouse—Miss Nelson, Master Arthur Turfington, of the Jockey Club—Miss Carey Nelson.

**MUSIC INCIDENTAL TO THE PEECE.**

Song—"The Charming Wife," Miss Nelson.  
 Duet—"Let us be United," Miss Nelson and Mr. A. Nelson. Song—"I'm a Gent," Miss Carey Nelson.  
 Finale—"If our friends wish us well," Miss Nelson, Miss C. Nelson, and Mr. A. Nelson.

In preparation the grand spectacle of "Joan of Arc," for the production of which a Horse is in training; and the sketch of Newgate, entitled the "Beggars' Opera."

No smoking allowed in any part of the theatre.  
 Doors open at half past 7, performance to commence at 8.

**G. COPPIN.**

**LOVE AND EXPERIENCE:** [musical entertainment] **Txt Adapt.** [n/e]; **Orig Mus.** Sydney Nelson; **Add Mus.** [n/e]

Advertised as "an entirely new musical vaudeville founded on the French of M. Balzac [with] the music composed, arranged and selected by Sydney Nelson." The characters are Captain Alterquick, a military gentleman of changeable disposition, Julia Hargrave, a young lady only slightly in love, and Susan, her experienced maid. Songs incorporated into the original production were the duet, "Oh, Indeed He's So Refined," the trio "Why Do You Come Just Now I Pray," solo numbers, "Let Him that the Cap Fits Wear It," and "The Haunts of Chamois" (Sara Nelson), "I Should Like to Marry," (Carry Nelson), "Listen, Dear Fanny" (a serenade by Alfred Nelson) and the finale "If You are but Amused" (the cast).

- 1852:** Protestant Hall, Melbourne; 22 Dec. 1852; 18, 28 Jan. 1853  
 - **M Dir/Arr.** Sydney Nelson.  
 - **Troupe:** Nelson Family.  
 - **Cast:** Alfred Nelson (Captain Alterquick), Sara Nelson (Julia Hargrave), Carry Nelson (Susan).
- 1853:** Protestant Hall, Melbourne; 23 Mar.  
 - Cast and production as for 1852 Melbourne season.
- 1853:** Mechanics Institute, Melbourne; 6 Apr., 1 June  
 - Cast and production as for 1852 Melbourne season.
- 1854:** Mechanics Institute, Melbourne; 1 June  
 - Cast and production as for 1852 Melbourne season.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pages. [Argus](#) 18 Jan. (1853), 8. Advert.

**GIGANTIC NUGGET; OR HARLEQUIN AND THE MONSTER GOLD GNOME:** [pantomime] **Lib/Mus.** [n/e]

Advertised as a grand comic pantomime of local interest.

- 1852:** Theatre Royal, Geelong (Victoria); 28-31 Dec. 1852; 18 Jan. 1853  
 - **Dir/Prod.** George Coppin.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. *Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869*. (1995), v. pages. State Library of Victoria. Coppin Collection. [no details] Playbill.

**THE NELSON FAMILY**  
**H**AVE the honor to announce that their  
 Fourth  
**MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT,**  
 Will take place  
**THIS EVENING, DECEMBER 10th, 1852,**  
 At the Protestant Hall,  
 On which occasion will be presented, for the  
 first time, an entirely  
**NEW MUSICAL VAUDEVILLE.**

**PART I.**

Quartette—"The Banquet Hall," Miss Nelson, Miss C. Nelson, Mr S. Nelson, and Mr A. Nelson . . . . . Nelson  
 Song—"The Briton's Fireside," Mr S. Nelson . . . . . Nelson  
 Duet—"My Merry Swiss Home," the Misses Nelson . . . . . Glover  
 Solo, (Piano-forte)—Miss C. Nelson . . . . .  
 Cavatina—"The Dream of Love," Miss Nelson . . . . . Rodwell  
 Air, (my desire)—"Madeline," Mr S. Nelson . . . . . Nelson  
 Ballad, (Irish)—"Barn-y, the tight lad of Derry," Miss C. Nelson . . . . . Nelson  
 Comic Song (entirely new)—"The Frenchman's Daughter," (a sketch behind the scenes,) Mr A. Nelson, in which will be introduced "an Irish Call Boy," "a Frenchman's Reading of the Soliloquy in Hamlet," "a Living Author," "Romeo, slightly altered," &c.

An interval of Fifteen Minutes.

**PART II.**  
 For the first time, an entirely new Musical Vaudeville, written expressly for the Nelson family, entitled  
**"THE SPORTING GENT."**

cont...

*Argus* 10 Dec. (1852), 8. Advert.

Last updated: 16/11/2015

Expanded and updated from Clay Djubal, "What Oh Tonight" (Appendix C), Ph D Diss (2005) U of Qld.

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