

# 1859

## THE STORY OF II TROVATORE: [burlesque] **Text Adapt.** George Fawcett [Rowe]; **Mus.** [n/e]

Adapted by George Fawcett from the Verdi opera with the narrative framed by a Christopher Sly prologue. Verdi's music was not used.

**1859:** Princess's Theatre, Melbourne; 31 Jan. - 3 Feb.

- **Lse.** J. R. Greville; **M Arr.** Mr Winterbottom.

- **Cast** incl. Carey and Sara Nelson, J. R. Greville, George Fawcett [Rowe], Mr Musgrave (prologue).

[Editorial.](#) *Age* 1 Feb. (1859), 5.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. [Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869.](#) (1995), v. pags.

[Theatres, The.](#) " *Argus* 1 Feb. (1859), 5.

## LA TARANTULA; OR THE SPIDER KING: [burlesque] **Text Adapt.** Albert Smith; **Mus.** [n/e]

A romantic burlesque possibly adapted from Francis Talford's *La Tarantula; Or The Spider King* (1850).

**1859:** Prince of Wales Opera House, Sydney; 31 Jan. - 11 Feb.

- **Lse/Mngr.** Charles Poole.

- **Cast** incl. Mrs Winterbottom, Mde. Sara Flower, Mrs Twight, Charles Poole, Ada Hart, Mrs Crosby, Mr Newtown, Charles Miran, James Hasker, Samuel Howard, Mr Wigan, J. J. Welsh, Mr Walker, Mr McLean, John Mungall.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. [Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869.](#) (1995), v. pags.

[Theatricals: Prince of Wales.](#) " *Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Chronicle* 1 Feb. (1859), 2.

## THE KING'S MINSTREL; OR, THE GOLDEN NUGGET: [musical entertainment]

**Text Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

Adapted from James Robinson Planché's extravaganza *The Fair One with the Golden Locks* (1843), with "specific [local] allusions, and a burlesque of Norma." The *Argus* theatre critic writes of the production:

The specific allusions were not inappropriately introduced, but some of the lines were sorely puzzling, as to the rhythm and rhyme. Miss Carrie Nelson as the hero of the piece, acted and sang with undiminished vivacity spirit and elegance. Miss Sara's make up as a kind of "Tilly Slowboy," was highly humorous and characteristic, and in the burlesque scena from Norma, she kept the house simmering with laughter for a considerable time. Miss Marie Nelson as "The fair one," displayed a graceful ease, and Mr Greville was quite in his element as the monarch of lachrymose tendencies. The piece was placed upon the stage with reasonable completeness considering the certainty of it having but a one night's run" (19 Feb. 1859, 5).

**1859:** Princess's Theatre, Melbourne; 19 Feb. [benefit]

- **Lse/Mngr.** J. R. Greville.

- **Cast** incl. Carry, Sara and Marie Nelson, J. R. Greville.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. [Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869.](#) (1995), v. pags.

[Theatres, The.](#) " *Argus* 19 Feb. (1859), 5.



**James Robinson Planché**  
Painting by Henry Perronet Briggs. *Wikipedia*

## HARLEQUIN KING BLEAR! AND THE FAIRY OF THE ENCHANTED ISLE:

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

**1859:** Prince of Wales Opera House, Sydney; 23-24 Apr.

- **Lse/Mngr.** Charles Poole.

- **Cast** incl. Ada Hart, Mrs Crosby, Mrs. H. Twight, Andrew Torning, Mr McLean, H. Twight, Frank Howson, Charles Miran, Mr Newton, Mr Welsh.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. [Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869.](#) (1995), v. pags.

## THE YELLOW DWARF; OR, THE KING OF THE GOLDEN MINES: [burlesque]

**Text Adapt.** W. M. Akhurst; **Mus.** [n/e]

Adapted from James Robinson Planché's fairy extravaganza (1854) and interspersed with local allusions.

**1859:** Theatre Royal, , Melbourne; 25 Apr. - 7 May [11 pfms]

- **Dir/Mngr.** Richard Younge; **Lse.** G. V. Brooke; **M Arr.** Frederick Coppin; **S Art.** William Pitt, W. J. Wilson and Alexander Habbe; **Cost.** Mrs Jagar and Mrs Earl.

- **Cast** incl. Miss Mortimer, Kate Warde, Mr and Mrs Frederick Younge, Mr Lambert, Henry R. Harwood.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. [\*Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869\*](#). (1995), v. pags.  
"[News of the Day](#)." *Age* 26 Apr. (1859), 5.  
"[Theatricals and Music: Theatre Royal](#)." *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* 30 Apr. (1859), 2.  
"[Theatres, The](#)." *Argus* 26 Apr. (1859), 5.

### **THE ENCHANTED ISLE:** [burlesque] **Txt Adapt.** George Fawcett [Rowe]; **Mus.** [n/e]

Written in verse and containing songs and dances, this localised burlesque was adapted from William and Robert Brough's extravaganza *The Enchanted Isle; Or, Raising the Wind on the Must Approved Principles* (1848), itself a burlesque of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

One of the features of the production was George Fawcett impersonation of "a well-known medical practitioner" (*Age* 25 Apr. 1859, n. pag.). A critic writing for *Bell's Life in Victoria* records: "Mr Fawcett... gives the jokes entrusted to him with solemn gravity. He has refined, in some degree, upon the design of the authors, and identifies himself very funnily with a person in our local pill interest. The hits levelled at the individual in question are racy, although they occasionally approach the broad in their reference to the aperient qualities of the vegetable specific which is profusely commended by its inventor to the Victorian stomach." Concerning the other local hits, the critic goes on to write: "many of them are cleverly strung together and judiciously interpolated" (2).

A similarly titled pantomime written by Thomas Pavey (and subtitled *Harlequin the Mysterious Prince and the Magician Father*) is not believed to be related to Rowe's burlesque. The Pavey production was staged in Melbourne in December that same year.

**1859:** Princess's Theatre, Melbourne; 25 Apr. - 7 May  
- **M Arr.** Mr Kohler; **S Art.** John Hennings.  
- **Cast** incl. George Fawcett [Rowe], Harry Sefton, Miss Herbert, Miss Green, Harry Jackson, Mr Jackson.

"[News of the Day, The](#)." *Argus* 26 Apr. (1859), 5.  
"[Theatricals and Music: Princess's](#)." *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* 30 Apr. (1859), 2.

### **THE WHITE CAT:** [burlesque] **Txt Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

A localised extravaganza adapted from J. R. Planché's *The White Cat* (1842).

**1859:** Princess's Theatre, Melbourne; 23 May - 4 June  
- **Mngr.** George Fawcett [Rowe].  
- **Cast** incl. Fanny Younge, Miss Green, Mr Jackson.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. [\*Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869\*](#). (1995), v. pags.

### **OUR NATIONAL DEFENCES; OR, THE COCKSHOT VOLUNTEERS:** [burlesque]

**Txt Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

Believed to be a local adaptation of a comedietta written by J. S. Coyne and B. L. Webster, originally performed at the Adelphi Theatre (London) in 1848 under the title *Our National Defences; Or, The Cockshot Yeomanry*. The Melbourne production was described as a satire on "our amateur soldiery" (*Bell's Life* 13 Aug. 1859, 2). There is not believed to be any relationship between this production and a similarly titled comedietta staged by Joseph Raynor at the Royal Victoria Theatre (Syd) in January 1861.

The music element included some dance numbers and military marches.

**1859:** Olympic Theatre, Melbourne; 8-13 Aug.  
- **Dir.** Miss Rose Edouin (children).  
- **Troupe:** Edouin Family.  
- **Cast** incl. Mr Rogers, Frederick Younge, John Dunn, 40<sup>th</sup> Regiment.

Kelly, Veronica, ed. [\*Annotated Calendar of Plays Premiered in Australia: 1850-1869\*](#). (1995), v. pags.

"[Olympic Theatre](#)." *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* 13 Aug. (1859), 2.  
"[Theatres: Olympic, The](#)." *Argus* 9 Aug. (1859), 5.



**Rose Edouin (ca. 1860s)**  
National Library of Australia

### **IVANHOE:** [burlesque] **Txt Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

Advertised in the *Argus* as a "localised adaptation" this take on Robert and William Brough's burlesque *The Last Edition of Ivanhoe, with all the Latest Improvements* (1850), was also said to be written by "a gentleman of this city [Melbourne] well known in connection with the Melbourne Press" ("Theatricals" 2).

The music element included incidental music and dance numbers with several songs.

**1859:** Olympic Theatre, Melbourne; 26 Sept. - 5 Oct., 11-15 Oct.  
- **Cast** incl. Mr and Mrs Frederick Younge, Rosa Dunn, Rose Edouin, Mdlle. Therese, John Dunn, Mr Webster, Mr Rogers, M. Schmidt (dancer).

**Editorial.** *Argus* 25 Sept. (1859), 5.

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

"**Theatricals and Music: Olympic Theatre.**" *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* 1 Oct. (1859), 2.

## **HARLEQUIN PRINCE HUMPY DUMPY; OR, THE MAGIC EAGLE AND THE GOLDEN BRANCH:** [pantomime] **Lib Adapt/Mus.** [n/e]

Adapted from J. R. Planché's extravaganza *The Golden Branch* (1847), possibly by George Fawcett [Rowe] this production contained local allusions and 'some judicious excisions and curtailments.' One of the topical issues raised was the withdrawal of religious instruction from schools. At one stage during the debut performance, too, a row broke out within the audience over "convention politics and Belvidere law, [but this] was very happily appeased by the tact of Mr Lambert, who appealed successfully to the audience for the usual latitude to harmless Christmas jesting" (*Argus* 29 Dec. 1859, 5).

The pantomime concerns Princess Dumpy, only daughter of King Humpy, and Prince Humpy, the only 'che-ild' of King Brown, tyrant of the Silly Islands, who have both been turned into ugly monsters by a wicked fairy. Their 'dreadfully tangled and confused' story, their fortunes, transformation and ultimately happy loves unfolds during the first part of the production, with the final section devoted to the traditional harlequinade.

**1859:** Theatre Royal, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1859 - 7 Jan. 1860 [11 pfms]  
- **Lse.** G. V. Brooke; **S Art.** John Hennings.  
- **Cast** incl. Fanny Morgan (Princess Dumpy), George Fawcett (Prince Humpy), Tilly Earl [Mrs John Edouin] (Pastorella, a fairy of the new school), Amy Howard (Mandragora, the wicked fairy), Fanny Young Suivanta, Princess Dumpy's maid, Emily Holroyd (Transimendus, and enchanted prince), Mr Lambert (King Brown/King Humpy), Harry Jackson (Quiver, Captain of the Guard), Mr Birch (Humguffin), George Leopold, Tom Leopold, Frau. Fannie [Mrs Tom Leopold] (Columbine), Mrs Hancock (Benignanta, an enchanted queen).

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

"**Theatre Royal.**" *Argus* 27 Dec. (1859), 5.

"**Theatricals and Music: Theatre Royal.**" *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* 31 Dec. (1859), 2.



**Gustavus Vaughan Brooke (ca. 1855)**  
Wikipedia

## **THE BABES IN THE WOOD; AND THE GOOD LITTLE FAIRY BIRDS:** [pantomime]

**Lib Adapt.** [n/e]; **Mus.** Charles Eigenschenck

This adaptation of H. J. Byron's original extravaganza was advertised in the *Sydney Morning Herald* as a "new and original burlesque extravaganza" with local allusions (26 Dec. 1859, n. pag.).

**1859:** Prince of Wales Opera House, Sydney; 26 Dec. 1859 - 7 Jan. 1860 [13 pfms]  
- **Lse.** Mr Raynor and Mr Downey; **Mngr.** Samuel Colville; **M Arr.** Charles Eigenschenck, **S Art.** Mr Guy; **Cost.** Mr Ford.  
- **Cast** incl. Ada Hart, Maggie Griffiths, Mr Palmer, Mr McLean, James Hasker, Master Palmer.

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

*Sydney Morning Herald* 26 Dec. (1859), 8. Advert.

## **THE DISCREET PRINCESS; OR HARLEQUIN MOTHER GOOSE AND THE THREE GLASS DISTAFFS:** [pantomime] **Lib Adapt.** G. S. Hough; **Mus.** [n/e]

Adapted from J. R. Planché's 1855 pantomime/extravaganza of the same name, with local hits by Hough aimed at such issues as education and current Melbourne personalities. The *Argus* theatre critic writes in this respect: "The localisms throughout the piece were very good, the allusions to the premier's determination not to resign office unless compelled by an unmistakable vote of want of confidence, the breach of contract of the German masons, Dr Evans's complaints of Press misrepresentations, the brilliancy of Government officials, the late robbery of gold at the Victoria bank, wherein the speaker says, "I am a banker, and have clerks in plenty, though my game isn't *dolce far niente*. The clerks I get to watch and guard my gains, get 40 pounds per annum for their pains" - a statement that was received with rounds of applause. The hit, however, that touched the audience more than anything was the appearance of Prince Richcraft in a highly Hunterian costume, and his dying speech was a furious rodomontade a la Princess's Theatre, in which John Thomas Smith and "Stubby" become victims of his immortal ire" (27 Dec. 1859, 5).

The story concerns King Gander, the father of three daughters, who 'after the example of a mighty monarch of the present day' is about to make war in Palestine - but he is unable to state what injury his antagonist has done him. The king's immediate concern is that the young girls will be kept safe while he is away. When he consults his ministers asking for their advice on the best course of action they tell him only that he should follow his instincts, so he seeks out the wise Mother Goose instead. She advises him to lock the girls up in a tower and gives him three magic distaffs to hand over to the young ladies. Their magic is such

that should any of his daughters misconduct herself during his absence her distaff will break. Prince Richcraft, the son of his enemy, appears almost immediately after the king departs. Disguised as an old beggar woman he tricks one of the girls into letting him enter the tower and upon arriving at the summit he sings to the tune of the "Ratcatcher's Daughter" a love song for one of them. Babillada and Idelfouza are enraptured, but the youngest daughter, Finnetta, has more regard for her father's wishes and orders him to leave. When the prince disappears the two older sisters find their distaffs broken. The king later returns, but not before being rescued from an attack and certain death by a young hero. His first concern is to inspect his daughters' distaffs. Meeting each daughter separately each distaff appears intact. Gander the Suspendous is suspicious, however, and asks to see the three together. When he discovers that the two older girls have cheated he is furious, and it is only the intervention of Finnetta that saves them from banishment. Meanwhile Finnetta has fallen in love with Prince Belavoir (who also happens to be her father's rescuer). Their love is almost complicated by the arrival Prince Richcraft. Upon finding that Finnetta (the object of his desire) has been courted by his brother, Richcraft flies into a paroxysm of rage but subsequently dies of convulsions. This scene then leads to the harlequinade.

The local scenes illustrated within the production included Melbourne's Eastern markets, the new Baths, the Sandridge Sugar Works and the Bank of Victoria.

*Argus* 24 Dec. (1859), 8.

**ROYAL PANTHEON THEATRE,**  
Cremorne Gardens.  
1st, Free. Stalls, 1s. Boxes, strictly select, with  
the exclusive use of Fireworks Gallery, 2s.  
Children, Half-Price.  
**THIS EVENING, SATURDAY,**  
Last Night of  
**NINE POINTS of the LAW.**  
Last Night of the  
**BRIDE of ABYDOS.**  
—  
**BOXING-DAY.**  
On **MONDAY AFTERNOON,** at 4 o'clock,  
Characteristic Rehearsal of the  
**NEW CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME,**  
With all the Scenic Effects.  
In the Evening, at 8 o'clock,  
A new Comedy,  
**ONE TOUCH of NATURE.**  
An interval of 30 minutes for the  
**DOUBLE DISPLAY of FIREWORKS,**  
Upon the Lake.  
After which,  
The Grand Comic Christmas Pantomime and  
Extravaganza,  
By J. R. Planche, Esq.,  
With Local Hits by G. S. Hough, Esq.,  
Entitled  
**The DISCREET PRINCESS,**  
Or  
**HARLEQUIN MOTHER GOOSE and the THREE**  
**GLASS DISTAFFS.**  
With two Columbines, two Harlequins, two Harle-  
quins, two Clowns, two Pantaloons, and  
Two **TRANSFORMATION SCENES,**  
Produced upon a scale of splendour never before  
witnessed in this colony.

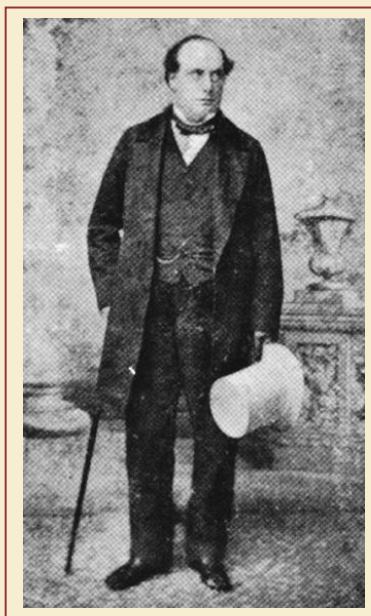
- 1859: Royal Pantheon, Cremorne Gardens, Melbourne; 26 Dec. 1859 - 21 Jan., 2-4 Feb. 1860 [28 pfms]  
- Dir/Prod. George Coppin.  
- Cast incl. Mrs Egan (Mother Goose), G. H. Rogers (King Gander), Miss Mortimer (Princess Babillada), Rosa Dunn (Princess Finetta), Rose Edouin (dancer), John Dunn (Prince Richcraft), Mrs Russell (Princess Idelfonza), John Edouin (dancer), Lee Family (pantomimists), Edouin Family (pantomimists).

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

"[Theatricals and Music: Royal Pantheon \(Cremorne\)](#)." *Bell's Life in Victoria and Sporting Chronicle* 31 Dec. (1859), 2.

"[Cremorne](#)." *Argus* 27 Dec. (1859), 5.

"[Cremorne](#)." *Age* 28 Dec. (1859), 5.



**George Coppin**

Viola Tait. *Dames, Principal Boys... And All That* (2001), 71.

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