

a house and servants of your own I will allow you to manage them as you like ; till then—

*Enter SAM and MARY.*

*Mrs. D.* I have sent for you, Samuel, to inform you that I should be exceedingly obliged if, for the future, you will abstain from gossiping about my affairs.

*Sam.* Certainly, m'm.

*Mrs. D.* (with condescension). As you seem to be sorry, I shall say no more, but merely add that by indulging your gossiping propensities you might have been the means of making Mary lose a good place, and—

*Sam.* I am very sorry, m'm—and—if you please, m'm, we're a-going to be married.

*Sir John.* Well, I never! It's catching. I'll tell you what, Sam, you have acted very foolishly, but you meant well, and so I'll forgive you this time.

*Sam.* I won't do it again, Sir John ; and I didn't mean no harm. But one thing I will say, and I mean to show it too, Sir John, that a master like you—

*Sir John.* There, be off with you! [*Exit MARY and SAM.*]  
*Mrs. D.* There is one thing I cannot understand. If you were so poor, how could you keep a man ?

*Sir John.* Well, Sam is my foster-brother, and is attached to me somehow, and begged to be allowed to come up to London and serve me for nothing till he got a place ; so I paid his expenses.

[*A group of servants seen through the half-open door.*]

*Sam and all.* Three cheers for Sir John and Lady Goodwyn ! Hurrah ! &c.

*Sir John.* Thank you for myself and my future wife. (*Mrs. D., much affected, begins to weep.*) Thank you all again ; and now three cheers for my future wife's mother !

*Servants.* Three cheers for Sir John's mother-in-law ! Hurrah ! &c.

*Mrs. D.* My dear children ! (*Sobs.*)

[*SIR JOHN closes door on servants, who retire, still hurrahing.*]  
*SIR JOHN and CLARA endeavour to soothe MRS. D., who, stepping in between them, joins their hands.*

*Mrs. D.* Bless you both, my dears.

CURTAIN.



## CHILDREN'S CALICO BALLS.



CHRISTMAS is essentially the children's season, and as it approaches anxious mothers revolve in their mind how best to cater for the amusement of the little folks who make the sunshine of their life. Few entertainments give them more intense

pleasure than a calico fancy ball, and it is difficult to imagine a prettier sight than the young, fresh faces, beaming with interest and enjoyment—the several picturesque costumes adding much piquancy to their young charms. In this I am sure all will bear me out who were present at the juvenile ball given at the Mansion House some two years ago. There, a good plan was adopted of having a march round from time to time, so that the dresses could be seen to perfection. I am inclined to think the boys had rather the best of it on that occasion. We all lost our hearts to a dear little fellow barely four years old who, as Portia, appeared in a black silk legal gown and wig, a brief carried in the hand ; a Post-boy, top-boots and all, true to the life ; a Yankee in a large-patterned checked suit, with high collar ; and a Cook, in white cap and apron. One of the very best of all the dresses, however, was an Incroyable, of which our illustration will give a good impression. Note the short-waisted, long-tailed drab cloth coat,

with its large lapels, the blue satin striped waistcoat and breeches, the lace frills at the wrists and front of the shirt, the cocked hat with tricoloured rosette, the top-boots, the double eye-glasses, and the massive gold chains hanging from either fob—a veritable dandy of the Directoire period.

It is customary at these juvenile balls to provide some amusements besides dancing, such as conjuring or Punch and Judy, tumbling, Christy Minstrels, Marionettes, Fantrecini, or any similar entertainments which may be the fashion of the hour, just as the hand-bell ringers and the Arab jugglers have been in time past. But I consider, besides all this, it is almost an essential part of the programme that there should be a special quadrille of the evening, those dancing in it assuming a particular dress. The choice is a large one. There might be a Dolly Varden and Joe Willet Quadrille, including Sam Weller, Mrs. Nickleby, Mrs. Gamp, Squeers, the Marchioness, and many others “familiar in our mouths as household words,” which are best copied from the illustrations that accompanied the first edition of the great author's works. A Shakespeare or a Waverley Quadrille is to my mind better suited to grown-up people, but a Cracker Quadrille is quite charming for children, the dancers being enveloped in different coloured dominoes, and tied up with ribbons like monster bonbons. At the present time, however, the most popular of all are the Singing Quadrilles, the best-known of which are the “Nursery Rhymes” and the “Blue Boy.” As the figures proceed, the dancers accompany their movements by singing in concert, and there are one or two airs for each figure—old-fashioned ones, originally associated with “Jack and Jill,” “Goosey Goosey Gander,” “Hey Diddle-diddle,” “Jack Horner,” “Where are you going to, my Pretty

with its large lapels, the blue satin striped waistcoat and breeches, the lace frills at the wrists and front of the shirt, the cocked hat with tricoloured rosette, the top-boots, the double eye-glasses, and the massive gold chains hanging from either fob—a veritable dandy of the Directoire period.

Maid?" "Baa, Baa," "Boopeep," "Sing a Song of Sixpence," "Ride a Cock Horse," "Mary, Mary, quite Contrary," &c.

Illustrated nursery lore has made these several heroes and heroines so familiar to children, that I



think most of them could themselves explain how they should be dressed. Boopeep is brought before you in the first of our illustrations. It should be made up in a pretty light blue sateen, trimmed with pink cotton-twill, the long pointed bodice laced in front over a low jaconet muslin chemisette. The sleeves are tied up with pink; a pink rose nestles at the side. The blue Shepherdess hat is worn over powdered hair. Blue silk stockings and high-heeled shoes with pink rosettes complete the costume. A basket of flowers and a crook tied with ribbon and flowers are carried in the hand, and often a small toy lamb under the arm, which probably pleases the little woman, though the chances are, before the evening is over, all these paraphernalia will become a burden, and they will find a resting-place in some obscure corner, only to be unearthed before departing.

At the memorable ball at Marlborough House, there was a Fairy-tale Quadrille, in which Beauty and the Beast, Princess Fair Star, Cinderella, the Goose Girl, and many other similar characters flourished, but they are not all suitable for a veritable calico ball; as the Goose Girl, for example, wore a shimmering robe of silver tissue and feathers; and the Duke of Connaught, as the Beast, a cloak of tiger-skin; for though the greatest licence is allowed with regard to material, a line must be drawn somewhere.

When calico balls first started, as I believe they did in India, only veritable cotton goods were admissible, such as calico, print, sateen, muslin, tarlatan, net, cretonne, and cotton velvet; tinsel replacing gold trimmings; while specially made cotton ribbons, cotton gloves and mittens, cotton velvet and sateen boots and shoes were worn. Now, however, fur trimmings, ribbon, and plenty of cotton-backed satins are to be seen at calico balls.

The pretty cretonnes and cotton fabrics to be had at every draper's make it an easy matter to concoct little girls' dresses in the correct material, but with the boys

there is more difficulty, and only where ample licence is admitted would the top-boots of a Postboy in our sketch be admissible. As it is, it is one of the most favourite characters. Any two colours may be selected—pink and blue are a happy mixture; the several divisions of the cap should be of the alternate shades, the jacket pink, the sleeves blue, the breeches white, and the tops of the boots pink.

"Folly," on the contrary, could just as well be carried out in sateens as in cotton-back satins, and should be a motley mixture of shades—the cap part blue, part red; the ruff white lace; the upper part of bodice half red, half blue; the plastron green, the sleeves blue with yellow epaulettes, the belt red; the basques, one Vandycck red, one blue; one leg encased in blue, one in red—shoes, cotton tights, and all.

A Clown is a very easily made dress for a boy, carried out in white calico with blue stripes pasted on it, so that when completed the stripes have the effect of being wound round the white. It is after the Pierrot order—a loose paletot, cap, and tights—but somewhat prettier, for Pierrot has white linen shoes, very large trousers, a loose paletot guiltless of belt, a huge flapping frill-edged collar, and red calico rosettes down the front; and he ought by good rights to have his face painted, which would be a tiresome process for a very little boy, though one of nine or ten might enter into the fun of it. Peppé Nappa, Pierrot's Italian relative, is generally dressed after the same fashion, only all in blue, and with a large ruff.

Mothers who do not care to go to much expense can dress their boys as veritable sailors—suits which can be subsequently used for every-day wear, and are to be had ready to put on at some of our seaports, in white drill or Galatea for under half-a-sovereign, and in serge for a few shillings more. To very little boys especially the dress is most becoming.

Father Christmas, without any doubt, ought to put



in an appearance, and has a further claim than his costume, which is easily concocted—only a white wig crowned with holly, a long flowing white robe with a monk's hood at the back, a girdle round the waist, a staff in hand, and a slight dredging of flour on the

shoulders, as though just out of a snow-storm; and, above all, a wallet, which, if filled with bonbons or trifling presents for everybody, will secure him a heartier welcome—this is all that is needed.

Little Boy Blue is generally dressed as Gainsborough's Blue Boy, and is specially appropriate in the Blue Boy Quadrille, if that is preferred to the ordinary Singing Quadrille. How familiar the artist has made the costume to us all!—the blue jacket with slashed sleeves and lace collar, the blue breeches, stockings, and blue shoes, the cloak depending from the shoulder, and held gracefully through the arm—a part of the costume, by-the-by, which for the wearer's sake, at a calico ball, might very easily be dispensed with.

To aid in selecting dresses when the occasion occurs, I may mention the following characters that might be adopted by boys—a Zouave, an Eastern Water-carrier, a Watteau Shepherd, Feramorz, a Knight of Malta, an Italian Fisherman, a Cricketer, a Grey



Friar—and they are none of them difficult to carry out. But *place aux dames*. National costumes have always many copyists at calico balls, and we have selected the Italian as, perhaps, the most picturesque for our illustration. It should be made up in dark scarlet and dark blue cotton, the upper and under skirts both bound with the contrast. The apron for calico balls presents a difficulty, and the best way of surmounting it is to procure a fancy chintz and stitch it in bands on to the dark blue; it is held on by the string passed round the waist, the upper portion turned over. The chemisette and head-dress are made of thick jaconet, and the portion resting on the head should be lined with cardboard, gold pins being used to keep it on. Gold or coral ornaments are best.

The Swiss with its silver chains and embroidery on a velvet bodice, the Normandy with the high cap, the Welsh with the high hat, the Alsatian with the large bow on the skull-like cap—all these find favour, as also does another distinctive class, the French Soubrette (illustrated above), which may be prettily rendered in a pink and white striped skirt, pink bodice, pink-trimmed muslin cap, bibbed apron, and pink-striped stockings.

Many effective dresses may be made in these striped cottons—Dolly Varden, Fille de Madame Angot, for



example. Last year, in America, what were known as Mother Goose Parties were started, and there all the children appeared in characters taken from nursery lore, made up literally with nothing but coloured cotton, and they are described as being most successful.

For the benefit of the little ones, it has been found an excellent plan to introduce other country dances into the programme besides "Sir Roger"—such as "Le Carillon de Dunkerque," Scotch Reels, "Tempête," "Off She Goes," "Haste to the Wedding," and similar old-fashioned jigs.

I have only now a few more dresses for girls to mention. Pamela I have seen charmingly represented in a black cotton over a cerise cotton petticoat, with demure cambric cap, fichu, and apron; and Grace Darling in a short blue skirt, loose tunic, sailor bodice, and fisherman's cap, carrying a lantern and a life-buoy. I do not, as a rule, consider that historical characters can be well carried out in calico, or that they are suited



to little children, always excepting Charles I. children as Vandyck painted them, in their long dresses and sleeves, and baby-caps, the most quaint and charming

of ideal infant splendour and rank. Lady Jane Grey, however, in silver-grey cotton, and cotton-backed black velvet, may be made to look as demure as a Puritan Maiden, both of which I commend to the notice of those who contemplate taking part in a juvenile

calico ball, together with Mother Hubbard, in her pointed hat; or a Witch, not so very unlike, having cats and serpents cut out in black cotton, and stitched or pasted on to the scarlet cap. There are so many suitable characters, the only difficulty is which to select.



### A Thornless Rose.

Words by EDWARD OXENFORD.

Music by HUMPHREY J. STARK.

*Allegretto.*

PIANO.

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|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. A maid-en, roam - - ing thro' a gar - den,      | Spied a rose-bud on a          |
| 2. "Pret - ty song - - ster, why this cau - tion?" | Ro - ses are for maidens       |
| 4. "Gen - tle youth," shecried, "be cau - tious;   | Hearts con - ceal full ma - ny |

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|-------------|--|-------------------------------|
| tree,.....  | "Ah! sweet flow'r," she said, "thy beau - ty | Sure - ly was re - served for |
| born."..... | "Yes, fair maid," the bird re - spond - ed,  | "When they grow with - out a  |
| woes."..... | "Yes, fair maid, but they are harm - less    | Wher true love in beau - ty   |