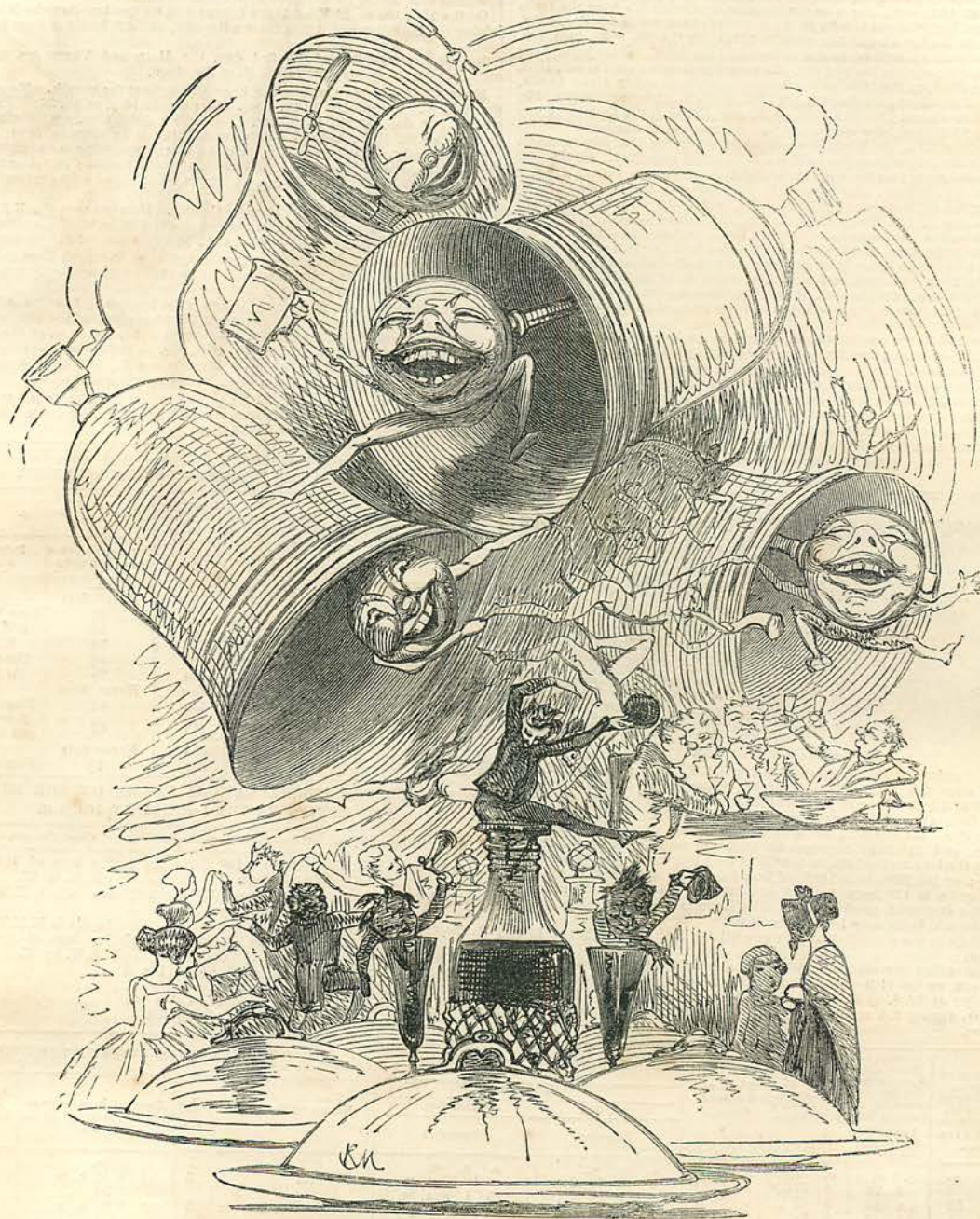


December Anniversary.



MERRY CHRISTMAS.—DRAWN BY KENNY MEADOWS.

THE ENGLISH CHRISTMAS HOME.*

A loud and laughing welcome to the merry Christmas bells!
 All hail, with happy gladness, to the well-known chaunt that swells
 We list the pealing anthem chord, we hear the midnight strain,
 And love the tidings that proclaim Old Christmas once again.
 But there must be a melody of purer, deeper sound,
 A rich key-note, whose echo runs through all the music round;
 Let kindly voices ring beneath low roof or palace dome,
 For these alone are carol chimes that bless a Christmas Home

CHORUS.

Then fill once more from Bounty's store red wine or nut-brown foam,
 And drink to kindly voices in an English Christmas Home!

A blythe and joyous welcome to the berries and the leaves
 That hang about our household-walls in dark and rustling sheaves:
 Up with the holly and the bay, set laurel on the board,
 And let the mistletoe look down while pledging-draughts are poured.
 But there must be some hallowed bloom to garland with the rest,—
 All, all must bring toward the wreath some flowrets in the breast;
 For though green boughs may thickly grace low roof or palace dome,
 Warm hearts alone will truly serve to deck a Christmas Home!

CHORUS.

Then fill once more from Bounty's store red wine or nut-brown foam,
 And drink to honest hearts within an English Christmas Home!

* The Poetry by Eliza Cook. The Music by Vincent Wallace, Composer of the Opera of "Maritana," appeared in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS, December 20, 1845.