ROSINA,

COMIC OPERA IN TWO ACTS,

ВΥ

MRS. BROOKE,

THE MUSIC BY

SHIELD,

THE

TEXT REVISED BY JOHN OXENFORD,

WITH

NEW SYMPHONIES AND ACCOMPANIMENTS,

ву

J. L. HATTON.

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PREFACE.

MR. W. M. SHIELD, who composed the music to Rosina, was one of the most popular musicians of his time. He was born at Swalwell, in the county of Durham. where his father had gained some repute as a teacher of singing, but soon afterwards removed to North Shields. In his earliest youth he played the violin and the harpischord, and before he was eight years old could sing at sight. year he lost his father, who had been his instructor, and was apprenticed to a boat-builder by his mother, who had three other children. During his apprenticeship, which lasted six years, he still pursued his musical studies, and was instructed by Mr. Avison, who lived in the neighbourhood of North Shields. talent soon attracted attention. He was invited to Scarborough by Mr. Cunningham, once celebrated as a pastoral poet, and here had ample opportunity to display his accomplishments. When the season at Scarborough had terminated he was engaged to lead the band of the theatre at Durham and at the concerts in New-He came to London, and having been recommended to M. Giardini, Leader of the Opera-house, obtained a situation in the orchestra. Here he found a zealous friend in M. Giardini's successor, M. Cramer, and he was also the Leader for one season, at what was then called, by way of distinction from the Opera-house, the "Little Haymarket." Here he was asked to compose the music for a comic opera, written by the Rev. Henry Bate, entitled the Flitch of Bacon. At first he refused as a compliment to Dr. Arnold, the regular composer of the theatre, but he could not resist the entreaties of the author, and the piece, brought out in 1778, was completely successful. His first dramatic attempt having thus proved fortunate, he was engaged as regular composer at Covent Garden, where soon a series of operas appeared to which his name is attached. Of all them, Rosina is now perhaps the best remembered. It was brought out on the 31st Dec. 1782, with the following cast:—

Mr. Belvii Capt. Belv William		••	••	••	 Mr. Charles Bannister. Mr. Brett. Mrs. Kennedy.
Rosina Dorcas Phæbe	:: ::	 		 	 Miss Harper. Mrs. Pitt. Mrs. Martyr.

Mr. Charles Bannister was a noted bass singer, with a remarkable falsetto, and father of Mr. John Bannister, the celebrated comedian. Another celebrity was Mrs. Martyr, who was particularly renowned for her suitability to male attire, and one almost wonders to find that William is not assigned to her rather than to

Mrs. Kennedy. This part, originally played, as we have shown, by a lady, was at Drury Lane represented "for that night only" by Mrs. Jordan, on the occasion of her benefit in April, 1789.

We cannot fix the precise date of the following cast, but the performance to which it refers could not have taken place very long after the original production of the opera:—

71.47 . 70 .2 .777 .			Mr. T 1. 1
Mr. Belville	• •	 	 Mr. Incledon
Capt. Belville		 	 Mr. Bellamy.
William		 	 Mr. Taylor.
Rustic		 	 Mr. Treby.
1st Irishman		 	 Mr. Mahon.
2nd Irishman		 	 Mr. Egan.
Rosina		 	 Miss Bolton.
Dorcas		 	 Mrs. Emery.
Phæbe		 	 Mrs. Liston.

With the name of Incledon, probably the most popular English singer who ever lived, most people must be of course familiar, and the two songs for which he was especially celebrated, Old Towler and The Storm are still famous. With the latter of these an anecdote is associated. In the summer of 1803 he had visited Dublin, and was wrecked on his return to England. Several of the passengers were lost, but he saved himself by clinging to the mast, with his wife lashed to him. In this perilous condition they both remained for several hours, but were, at length, rescued by some fishermen. Incledon, after he had left Covent Garden, where he had made his first appearance as "Alphonso" in the Castle of Andalusia, travelled with a musical entertainment called the Wandering Melodist, and on a subsequent visit to Dublin he advertised this entertainment with the additional item of The Storm. If we may trust tradition, Incledon owed his fame more to a magnificent voice than to artistical acquirements.

The following later casts of Rosina will, perhaps, be read with interest.

		Covent Garden, 1825	5. Haymarket, 1825.
Mr. Belville	 	Mr. Duruset.	Mr. Melrose,
Capt. Belville	 	Mr. Pierman.	Mr. Huckel.
William	 	Miss Hallande	Mr. W. West.
Rustic	 	Mr. Isaacs.	Mr. Ebsworth.
1st Irishman	 	Mr. Connor.	Mr. Lee.
2nd Irishman	 	Mr. Louis.	Mr. Tulip.
Rosina	 	Miss M. Tree.	Miss George.
Dorcas	 	Mrs. Pearce.	Mrs. Kendal.
Phabe	 	Miss Love.	Mrs. C. Jones.

Of all the vocalists who have represented Rosina, Miss M. Tree is the most celebrated.

Mrs. Francis Brooke, the authoress of the words of *Rosina*, was a lady of extremely good repute, not more remarkable, we learn, for her first-rate abilities

and literary talents, than for the gentleness and suavity of her manners. Her connexions were ecclesiastical. She was the daughter of a clergyman named Moore, and her husband, the Rev. John Brooke, was rector of Colway in Northamptonshire, and chaplain to the garrison of Quebec. He died in January, 1789, and his wife died a few days afterwards at Sleaford, at the home of her son, who had preferment in that part of the country. Mrs. Brooke, besides Rosina, wrote two tragedies, now forgotten, and several novels, of which one entitled Lady Julia Mandeville is perhaps still remembered by old-fashioned readers.

The plot of *Rosina* is said to have been suggested by the episode of "Palemon and Lavinia," in Thomson's *Autumn*, which again is supposed to own its origin to the scriptural book of Ruth. A French opera in three acts, translated in 1770, with the title the *Reapers*, but never acted, seems, however, to have had something to do with it; though there is every reason to believe that the lively characters, William and Phœbe, are the invention of Mrs. Brooke.

The traditional costume of Rosina is as follows:

MR. BELVILLE.-Black coat, white waistcoat and trowsers.

CAPT. BELVILLE.—Blue coat, light waistcoat, breeches, top boots, spurs, &c.

WILLIAM .- Light drab or grey coat, light waistcoat and breeches, white stockings, and shoes.

RUSTIC:-Light blue countryman's coat, coloured waistcoat, breeches, blue stockings, shoes, and round hat.

1st & 2nd IRISHMEN.—Ragged red and brown waistcoats, with worsted sleeves, patched breeches, coloured worsted stockings, old shoes or slippers, haybands tied round the legs, little round hats with torn crowns. The entire dress indicating great poverty.

ROSINA.—Neat white dress, trimmed with white ribbon, small muslin apron, with pockets, elso trimmed with ribbon, small white straw hat and ribbons, &c.

DORCAS.—Red stuff petticoat, chintz gown, open in front, coloured handkerchief, cap and ribbon, black bonnet, blue stockings, and crutch stick.

PHCEBE .- White dress, trimmed with green ribbon, little apron, with pockets, and straw hat

THE following is the episode in James Thomson's Autumn, by which, it is said, the story of Rosina was suggested:

The lovely young Lavinia once had friends; And Fortune smil'd, deceitful, on her birth, For, in her helpless years depriv'd of all, Of every stay, save Innocence and Heaven, She with her widow'd mother, feeble, old, And poor, liv'd in a cottage, far retir'd Among the windings of a woody vale; By solitude and deep surrounding shades, But more by bashful modesty conceal'd. Together thus they shunn'd the cruel scorn, Which virtue, sunk to poverty, would meet From giddy passion and low-minded pride: Almost on Nature's common bounty fed; Like the gay birds that sang them to repose, Content, and careless of to-morrow's fare. Her form was fresher than the morning-rose. When the dew wets its leaves; unstain'd and pure, As is the lily or the mountain-snow. The modest virtues mingled in her eyes, Still on the ground dejected, darting all Their humid beams into the blooming flow'rs: Or when the mournful tale her mother told Of what her faithful fortune promis'd once Thrill'd in her thought, they, like the dewy star Of evening, shone in tears. A native grace Sat fair-proportion'd on her modest limbs, Veil'd in a simple robe, their best attire, Beyond the pomp of dress; for loveliness Needs not the foreign aid of ornament, But is when unadorn'd adorn'd the most. Thoughtless of beauty she was beauty's self. Recluse amid the close-embowering woods, As in the hollow heart of Appenine Beneath the shelter of encircling hills, A myrtle rises, free from human eye, And breathes its balmy fragrance o'er the wild; So flourish'd, blooming and unseen by all, The sweet Lavinia; till, at length, compell'd By strong Necessity's supreme command, With smiling patience in her looks, she went To glean Palemon's fields. The pride of swains Palemon was, the generous and the rich; Who led the rural life in all its joy And elegance, such as Arcadian song Transmits from ancient uncorrupted times; When tyrant Custom had not shackled Man, But free to follow Nature was the mode. He then, his fancy with autumnal scenes Amusing, chanc'd beside his reaper-train To walk, when poor Lavinia drew his eye; Unconscious of her power, and turning quick With unaffected blushes from his gaze: He saw her charming, but he saw not half The charms her downcast modesty conceal'd. That very moment, love and chaste desire Sprang in his bosom, to himself unknown, For still the world prevail'd and its dread laugh, Which scarce the firm philosopher can scorn, Should his heart own a gleaner in the field; And thus in secret to his soul he sigh'd:

"What pity that so delicate a form, By beauty kindled, where enlivining sense And more than vulgar goodness seem to dwell Should be devoted to the rude embrace Of some indecent clown! She looks, methinks, Of old Acasto's line; and to my mind Recalls that patron of my happy life From whom my liberal fortune took its rise; Now to the dust gone down; his houses, lands, And once far-spreading family dissolved.
"Tis said that in some lone obscure retreat, Urg'd by remembrance sad and decent pride, Far from those scenes which knew their better days, His aged widow and her daughter live, Whom yet my fruitless search could never find. Romantic wish! Would this the daughter were!"

When, strict inquiring from herself he found She was the same, the daughter of his friend, Of bountiful Acasto; who can speak The mingled passions that surpris'd his heart, And though his nerves in shiv'ring transport ran? Then blaz'd his smother'd flame, unnerv'd and bold; And, as he view'd her, ardent, o'er and o'er, Love, gratitude, and pity wept at once. Confused, and frighten'd at his sudden tears, Her rising beauties flush'd a higher bloom, As thus Palemon, passionate and just, Pour'd out the pious rapture of his soul.

"And art thou then Acasto's dear remains? She, whom my costless gratitude has sought So long in vain? Oh Heaven! The very same, The soften'd image of my noble friend, Alive his evry look, his evry feature
More elegantly touch'd. Sweeter than spring!
Thou sole surviving blossom of the root That nourish'd up my fortune! Say, ah where, In what sequester'd desert hast thou drawn The kindest aspect of delighted Heaven? Into such beauty spread and blown so fair, Though poverty's cold wind and crushing train Beat keen and heavy on thy tender years? Oh, let me now, into a richer soil Transport the sap! Where vernal suns and showers Diffuse their warmest, largest influence; And of my garden be the pride and joy ! Ill it befits thee, ah, it ill befits Acasto's daughter, his, whose open stores, Though vast, were little to his ample heart, The father of a country, thus to pick The very refuse of these harvest-fields Which from his bounteous friendship I enjoy. Then throw that shameful pittance from thy hand, But ill applied to such a rugged task; The fields, the master, all, my fair, are thine, If to the envious blessing which thy house Has on me lavish'd, thou wilt add that bliss, That dearest bliss, the pow'r of blessing thee!" Here ceas'd the youth; yet still his speaking eye Express'd the sacred triumph of his soul, With conscious virtue, gratitude and love, Above the vulgar joy divinely rais'd. Nor waited he reply. Won by the charm Of goodness irresistable and all In sweet disorder lost, she blush'd consent. The news immediate to her mother brought. While, pierc'd with anxious thought, she pin'd away The lonely moments for Lavinia's fate: Amaz'd and scarce believing what she heard. Joy seiz'd her wither'd veins, and one bright gleam Of setting life shone on her evening hours; Not less enraptur'd than the happy pair Who flourish'd long in tender bliss, and rear'd A num'rous offspring, lovely like themselves, And good, the grace of all the country round.







"Rosina."- (2)







Scene First.—A Corn-field. A Cottage, R. S. E. A Bower, L. S. E. Corn strewed on the Stage. After the Trio, the sun is seen to rise. The door of the Cottage is open. Dorcas, seated on the bench, is spinning. Rosina, Phœbe, and William come from the top of the Stage, and sing the following Trio.









Ros.—See! my dear Dorcas, what we gleaned yester-day in Mr. Belville's field! (Coming forward, and shewing the corn at the door.)

Don.-Lord love thee! but take care of thyself: thou

art but tender.

Ros.—Why do you sigh, Dorcas?

Don.—(n.) I canno bear it; it's nothing to Pheebe and me, but thou wast not born to labour. (Rising,

and pushing away the wheel.)
.—(L.) Why should I repine? Heaven, which deprived me of my parents and my fortune, left me health, content, and innocence. Nor is it certain that riches lead to happiness. Do you think the nightingale sings the sweeter for being in a gilded cage i

Don .- Sweeter, I'll maintain it, than the poor little linnet that thou pick'st up half starved under the hedge yesterday, after its mother had been shot, and brought'st to life in thy bosom. Let me speak to his honour, he's main kind to the poor.

Ros.—Not for worlds, Dorcas, I want nothing; you have been a mother to me.

Dor.-Wou'd I cou'd! wou'd I cou'd! I ha' worked hard and 'arn'd money in my time; but now I am old ond feeble, and push'd about by everybody. More's the pity, I say; it was not so in my young time; but the world grows wickeder every day.

Ros.—Your age, my good Dorcas, requires rest! go into the cottage, whilst Phoebe and I join the gleaners, who are assembling from every part of the village.

Don .- Many a time have I carried thy dear mother, an infant in these arms; little did I think a child of her's would live to share my poor pittance. But I wo'not grieve thee. (Doncas enters the Cottage, n. s. e., looking back affectionately at Rosina.)

Enter PHEBE, L.

PHŒBE.-What makes you so melancholy, Rosina? Mayhap it's because you have not a sweetheart? But you are so proud, you won't let our young men come a-near you. You may live to repent being so scornful.

WHEN WILLIAM, AT EVE. SONG. SHIELD. PIANO. PHŒBE. When the night - in - gale's stile, Howeve, meets me the stile, How When Of the day, 1 for - get the night - in-gale's song!





[During the last stanza, William appears L., and makes signs to Phabe, who, when it is finished, steals softly to him, and they exeunt, L.]

Ros.—How small a part of my evils is poverty! And how little does Phœbe know the heart she thinks

insensible! the heart which nourishes a hopeless passion. I blest like others, Belville's gentle virtues, and knew not that 'twas love. Unhappy, lost Rosina!



SEE, YE SWAINS.

SONG AND CHORUS.



" Rosina."- (14)





Rus.-Hist! there's his honour. Where are all the lazy Irishmen I hired yesterday at market?

Enter Two IRISHMEN, L.

1st Irish.—Is it us he's talking of, Paddy? Then the devil may thank him for his good commendations.

Enter Belville, L.

BEL .- You are too severe, Rustic, the poor fellows came three miles this morning; therefore I made them stop at the manor-house to take a little refreshment.

1st Irish.-God love your sweet face, my jewel, and all those that take your part. Bad luck to myself, if I would not, with all the veins of my heart, split the dew before your feet in a morning. (To Belville.)

Rus.-If I do speak a little cross, it's for your honour's good. (The Reapers cut the corn, and make it into sheaves. Rosina follows, and gleans.)

Rus. (Seeing Rosina.) What a dickens does this girl

do here! Keep back; wait till the reapers are off the field; do like the other gleaners.

Ros.—(Timidly.) If I have done wrong, sir, I will put what I have gleaned down again. (She lets fall the ears she has gleaned.)

Bel.—How can you be so unfeeling, Rustic? She is lovely, virtuous, and in want. Let fall some ears, that she may glean the more.

Rus.—Your honour is too good by half.
BEL.—No more: gather up the corn she has let fall. Do as I command you.

Rus.-There, take the whole field, since his honour chuses it. (Putting the corn into her apron. Rosina retires gleaning.)

1st Irish.—Upon my soul, now, his honour's no churl of the wheat, whate'er he may be of the barley.

Bre. - (Looking after Rosina.) What bewitching softness! There is a blushing, bashful gentleness, an almost infantine innocence in that lovely countenance, which it is impossible to behold without e action! She turns this way. What bloom on that cheek! 'Tis the blushing down of the peach.

HER MOUTH, WHICH A SMILE.







Enter Captain Belville in a Riding-dress, L.

CAPT. BEL.-Good morrow, brother! You are early abroad.

Bel.—(R.) My dear Charles, I am happy to see you.
True, I find, to the first of September.
CAPT. Bel.—(L.) I meant to have been here last

night, but one of my wheels broke, and I was obliged to sleep at a village six miles distant, where I left my chaise, and took a boat down the river at day-break. But your corn is not off the ground.

BEL .- You know our harvest is late in the north, but you will find all the lands cleared on the other side of the mountain.

CAPT. BEL .- And pray, brother, how are the partridges this season P

Bel.-There are twenty coveys within sight of my

house, and the dogs are in fine order.

CAPT. Bet..—The gamekeeper is this moment leading them round. I am fired at the sight.

BY DAWN TO THE DOWNS WE REPAIR.











CAPT. Bel.—Pray, brother, is not that yonder the little girl whose dawning beauty we admired so much last year?

Bel.—It is, and more lovely than ever. I shall dine in the field with my reapers to-day, brother: will you share in our rural repast, or have a dinner prepared at the manor-house?

CAPT. BEL.—By no means: pray let me be of your party: your plan is an admirable one; especially if your girls are handsome. I'll walk round the field, and meet you at dinner-time.

Bel.—Come this way, Rustic; I have some orders to give you. [Exit Belville and Rustic, R.

(Captain Belville goes up to Rosina, gleans a few ears, and presents them to her; she refuses them; she runs out, he follows her, L. U. E.)

Enter William (Speaking at the side Scene) L. S. E.

WILL.—Lead the dogs back, James, the Captain won't shoot to-day. (Seeing RUSTIC and PHEBE behind.) Indeed! so close! I don't half like it. Enter RUSTIC and PHŒBE, R. U. E.

Rus.—That's a good girl! Do as I bid you, and you shan't want encouragement. (He goes up to the reapers, and WILLIAM comes forward.)

WILL.—O, no; I dare say she won't. So, Mrs. Phœbe! Phœbe.—And so, Mr. William, if you go to that!

Will.—A new sweetheart, I'll be sworn; and a pretty comely lad he is: but he's rich, and that's enough to win a woman.

Phebe.—I don't deserve this of you, William: but I'm rightly served, for being such an easy fool. You think, mayhap, I'm at my last prayers; but you may find yourself mistaken.

WILL.—You do right to cry out first; you think, belike, that I did not see you take that posy from

Phebr.—And you, belike, that I did not catch you tying up one of cornflowers and wild roses for the miller's maid. But I'll be fool'd no longer; I have done with you, Mr. William.

Will.—I shan't break my heart. Mrs. Phœbe. The miller's maid loves the ground I walk on.

DIALOGUE.











Enter Rosina hastily, Captain Belville following her, L. U. E.

Capt. Bel.—Stay, and hear me, Rosina. Why will you fatigue yourself thus? Only homely girls are born to work. Your obstinacy is vain; you shall hear me.

Ros.—Why do you stop me, sir? My time is precious.
When the gleaning season is over, will you make
up my toss?

CAPT. BEL.—Yes.

Ros.—Will it be any advantage to you, to make me lose my day's work?

CAPT. BEL.—Yes.

Ros.—We differ greatly then, sir. I only wish for so much leisure as makes me return to my work with fresh spirit. We labour all the week, 'tis true; but then how sweet is our rest on Sunday!

WHILST WITH VILLAGE MAIDS I STRAY.









Capt. Bel.—Mere prejudice, child; you will know better. I pity you, and will make your fortune. Ros.—Let me call my mother, sir; I am young, and

Ros.—Let me call my mother, sir; I am young, and can support myself by my labour; but she is old and helpless, and your charity will be well bestowed. Please to transfer to her the bounty you intended for me.

CAPT. BEL .-- Why --- as to that---

Ros.—I understand you, sir; your compassion does not extend to old women.

CAPT. BEL.-Really-I believe not.

[Retires up the Stage. Enter Dorcas, from the Cottage.

Ros.—You are just come in time, mother. I have met with a generous gentleman, whose charity inclines him to succour youth.

Dor.—'Tis very kind——And old age—

Ros.-He'll tell you that himself-

[ROSINA goes into the Cottage, R. S. E. Don.—I thought so. Sure, sure, 'tis no sin to be old! Capt. Bel.—(Comes down, R.) You must not judge of me by others, honest Dorcas. I am sorry for your misfortunes, and wish to serve you.

Dor.--(L.) And to what, your honour, may I owe

this kindness?

CAPT. Bel.—(R.) You have a charming daughter— Dor.—(Aside.) I thought as much. A vile wicked man!

CAPT. Bel.—Beauty like hers might find a thousand resources in London; the moment she appears there, she will turn every head.
Dor.—And is your honour sure her own won't turn at

the same time?

CAPT. BEL.—She shall live in affluence, and take care

of you too, Dorcas.

Don.—I guess your honour's meaning; but you are mistaken, sir. If I must be a trouble to the dear child, I had rather owe my bread to her labour than her shame. (Goes into the Cottage, and shuts the door.)

Capt. Bel.—These women astonish me; but I won't give it up so.

Enter Rustic, L. He crosses behind to R. CAPT. BEL.-A word with you, Rustic.

Rus.—I'm in a great hurry, your honour; I am going

to hasten dinner.

CAPT. Bel.—(L.) I shan't keep you a minute. Take
these five guineas.

Rus.—(R.) For whom, sir?

CAPT. BEL.—For yourself. And this purse. Rus.—For whom, sir?

Capt. Bel.—For Rosina; they say she is in distress, and wants assistance.

Rus.—What pleasure it gives me to see you so charitable. But why give me money, sir?

CAPT. Brl.—Only to—Tell Rosina there is a person

who is very much interested in her happiness.

Rus.—How much you will please his honour by this.

He takes mightily to Rosina, and prefers her to all the young women in the parish.

Capt. Bel.—Prefers her! Ah! you sly rogue! (Laying his had on Rustic's shoulder.)

Rus.—Your honour's a wag; but I'm sure I meant no harm. Capt. Bel.—Give her the money, and tell her she shall never want a friend; but not a word to my brother.

Rus.—All's safe, your honour. (Exit CAPTAIN BEL-VILLE, L. V.E.) I don't vastly like this business. At the Captain's age this violent charity is a little dubious. I am his honour's servant, and it's my duty to hide nothing from him. I'll go seek his honour. Oh, here he comes.

Enter BELVILLE, L.

Bel.—Well, Rustic, have you any intelligence to communicate?

Rus.—A vast deal, sir. Your brother begins to make good use of his money; he has given me these five guineas for myself, and this purse for Rosina. Bel.—For Rosina! (Aside, R.) Tis plain he loves

Bel.—For Rosina! (Aside, n.) Tis plain he loves her! Obey him exactly; but as distress renders the mind haughty, and Rosina's situation requires the utmost delicacy, contrive to execute your commission in such a manner that she may not even suspect from whence the money comes.

Rus.—I understand your honour.

Bel.—Have you gained any intelligence in respect to Rosina?

Rus.—I endeavoured to get what I could from the old woman's grand-daughter; but all she knew was, that she was no kin to Dorcas, and that she had had a good bringing up; but here are the labourers. (Cottage door opens, and Dorcas is seen at it. Ro-SINA also directly afterwards.)

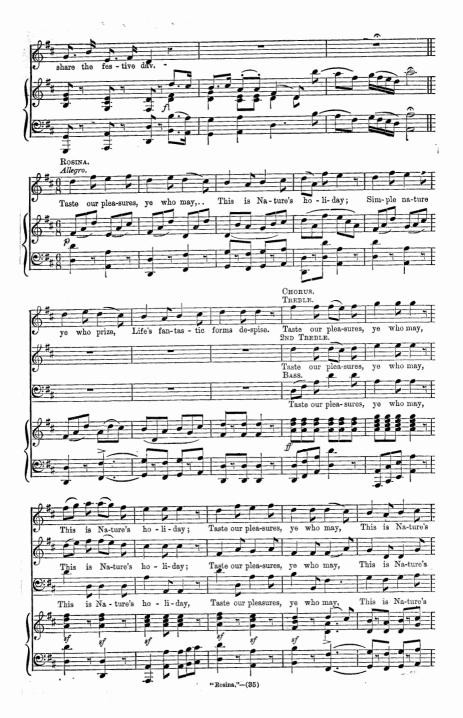
Bel.—But I don't see Rosina. Dorcas, you must come too, and Phœbe.

Dor.—We can't deny your honour.

Ros.—I am asham'd; but you com
Ros.—I am asham'd; but you com
Cottage.

Enter the Respers, R. and L. U. E's., CAPT. BELVILLE, L.







" Rosina."-(36)









ACT II.

Scene continues.

Enter Rustic, R. U. E.

Rus.—This purse is the plague of my life; I hate money when it is not my own. I'll e'en put in the five guineas he gave me for myself: I don't want it, and they do. It's a good action, and will bring its own reward. They certainly must find it there; (Pointing to the seat before the door.) I shall be glad to get rid of it, I'm sure. But I hear the cottage door open. (Rustic retires a little. Dorcas and Rosina come out of the cottage; Dorcas with a great basket on her arm filled with skeins of thread.)

Don.—(L.) I am just going, Rosina, to carry this thread to the weaver's.

Ros.-(R.) This basket is too heavy for you; pray let me carry it. (Takes a basket from Dorcas, and

sets it down on the bench.)

Don.—(Peevishly.) No, no.

Ros.—If you love me, only take half; this evening, or to-morrow morning, I will carry the rest. (She takes part of the skeins out of the basket and lays them on the bench, looking affectionately on Dorcas.) There, be angry with me if you please.

Dor.-No, my sweet lamb, I am not angry; but, be-

ware of men.

Ros.—Have you any doubt of my conduct, Dorcas? Dor.—Indeed I have not, love; and yet I am uneasy.

Enter Captain Belville, R. and listens.

Rus. - (Goes to the cottage.) Now; whilst they turn their heads. (He lays the purse on the bench un-perceived, and says to CAPT. BELVILLE, whom he meets going off.) I have disposed of your money,

CAPT. BEL .- Come this way. (He takes RUSTIC aside.) Dor.-Go back to the reapers, whilst I carry this thread.

Ros.—I'll go this moment.
Dor.—But as I walk but slow, and 'tis a good way, you may chance be at home before me, so take the key. Ros .- I will. (Whilst Dorcas feels in her pockets for the key.)

CAPT. BEL.—(Aside.) Rosina to be at home before Dorcas! How lucky! I'll slip into the house, and wait her coming, if 'tis till midnight. (He goes unperceived by them into the cottage.)

Don.—Let nobody go into the house.

Ros.—I'll take care, Dorcas; but first I'll double-lock the door. (DORCAS crosses R. to lock the door, and sees the purse.)
Dor.—Good lack! What is here! A purse, as I live!

Ros.-How?

Dor.-Come and see; 'tis a purse, indeed.

Ros.—Heavens! 'tis full of gold.

Don.—We must put up a bill at the church gate, and restore it to the owner. The best way is to carry the money to his honour, and get him to keep it Ros.—Pray excuse me; I dare not speak to him: I always blush so—

Don.—Tis nothing but childishness: here take the key. But his honour will like your bashfulness better than too much courage. Carry it, my love. [Exit, L.

Ros.-I cannot support his presence-my embarrassment—a confusion—a stronger sensation than that of gratitude agitates my heart. Yet hope, in my situation, were madness.

Enter WILLIAM, L.

Ros.-(R.) Pray, William, do you know of any body that has lost a purse?

Will.-(L.) I knows nothing about it.

Ros .- Dorcas, however, has found one.

Will.—So much the better for she.

Ros.—You will oblige me very much if you will carry it to Mr. Belville; and beg him to keep it till the owner is found.

Will.-Since you desire it, I'll go; it shan't be the

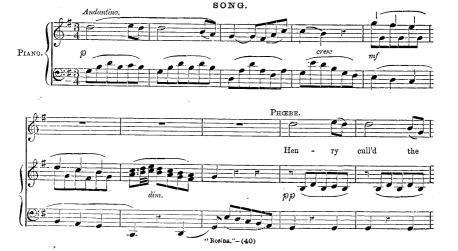
lighter for my carrying.
Ros.—That I am sure of, William.

Crosses, L. Exit Rosina, L.

Enter PHŒBE, R.

PHŒBE.-There's William; but I'll pretend not to see him. (She sings.)

HENRY CULL'D THE FLOW'RET'S BLOOM.







(Crosses, L. Throws away her nosegay. Whilst she is singing, WILLIAM turns, looks at her, whistles, and plays with his stick.)
LL.—(R.) That's Harry's posy; the slut likes me

WILL.still.

PHEBE.—(L.) (Aside.) That's a copy of his countenance, I'm certain; he can no more help following me than he can be hanged.

[WILLIAM crosses again and again, singing. " Of all the fair maidens that dance on the green.

The maid of the mill for me."

PHEBE.-I am ready to choke with madness; but I'll not speak first, an I die for't.

WILLIAM sings, throwing up his stick and catching it. "Her eyes are as black as the sloe in the hedge. Her face like the blossoms in May.'

PHEBE.—I can't bear it no longer—you vile, ungrateful, parfidious—But it's no matter—I can't think what I could see in you. Harry loves me, and is a thousand times more handsomer. (Sings, sobbing at every word.

"Of all the gay wrestlers that sport on the green, Young Harry's the lad for me."

WILL.—He's yonder a-reaping: shall I call him?

Offers to go. PHEBE.—My grandmother leads me the life of a dog! and it's all along of you.

WILL.-Well, then, she'll be better-tempered now. PHŒBE.—I did not value her scolding a brass farthing, when I thought as how you were true to me.

Will.—Wasn't I true to you? Look in my face and say that. (Coming back.) Let's part friendly, howsomever. Bye, Phœbe! I shall always wish you well.

PHŒBE.-Bye, William! (Cries, wiping her eyes with her apron.)

WILL.—(Aside.) My heart begins to melt a little.
(Aloud.) I loved you very well once, Phæbe; but you are grown so cross, and have such vagaries-

PHŒBE.-I'm sure I never had no vagaries with you. William. But go, mayhap Kate may be angry.
WILL.—And who cares for she? I never minded her anger, nor her coaxing neither, till you were cross

to me. PHCEBE.—(Holding up her hands.) O the father! I cross to you, William?

WILL.-Did not you tell me this very morning as how you had done wi' me?

PHŒBE.-One word's as good as a thousand. Do you love_me, William? WILL.-Do I love thee? Do I love dancing on the

green better than thrashing in the barn? Do I love a wake? a harvest home?
PHEBE.—Then I'll never speak to Harry again the

longest day I have to live. WILL.-I'll turn my back o' the miller's maid the first

time I meet her.

PHEBE.-Will you indeed, and indeed?

WILL.—Marry will I; and, more than that, I'll go speak to the parson this moment. (Crosses, L., then turns and kisses her.) I'm happier-zooks, I'm happier than a lord or a squire of five hundred a









Enter Belville, L. U. E.

Bel.—I tremble at the impression this lovely girl has made on my heart. My cheerfulness has left me,

and I am grown insensible even to the delicious pleasure of making those happy who depend on my protection.

ERE BRIGHT ROSINA MET MY EYES.

BALLAD.







BEL.—Since the sun rose, I have been in continual exercise, and will try to rest for a quarter of an hour on this bank. (Lies down on a bank under Bower, L. S. E. Four female Gleaners pass the stage,

from L. U. E., and exeunt, R., with sheaves of Corn on their heads; last Rosina, who comes forward C. singing.)

LIGHT AS THISTLE-DOWN MOVING.







Ros.—What do I see? Mr. Belville asleep? I'll steal softly—at this moment I may gaze on him without blushing. (Lays down the corn, and walks softly up to him.) The sun points full on this spot; let me fasten these branches together with this ribbon, and shade him from its beams—yes—that will do. But if he should wake——(Takes the ribbon from her bosom, and ties the branches together.) How my heart beats! One look more—Ah! I have waked him——(She flies, and endeavours to hide herself against the door of the Cottage, turning her head every instant.)

Bel.—What noise was that? (Half raising himself.)
This ribbon I have seen before, and on the lovely
Rosina's bosom——(He rises and goes towards the
Cottage.)

Ros.—I will hide myself in the house. (Rosina opens the door, sees Captain Belville, and starts back.) Heavens! a man in the house!

Capt. Bel.—Now, love assist me! (Comes out, and seizes Rosina; she breaks from him, and runs affrighted across the stage to L. Belville follows. Captain Belville, who comes out to pursue her, sees his brother, and steals off, R.)

BEL .- Why do you fly thus, Rosina?

Ros.—O, sir!—my strength fails. (Leans on Belville, who supports her in his arms.) Where is he? A gentleman pursued me—— (Looking round.)

Bel.—Don't be alarm'd, 'twas my brother—he could not mean to offend you.

Ros.—Your brother! Why then does he not imitate your virtues? Why was he here?

BEL.—Forget this: you are safe. But tell me, Rosina, for the question to me is of importance; have I not seen you wear this ribbon?

Ros.—Forgive me, sir; I did not mean to disturb you.

I only meant to shade you from the too great heat
of the sun.

Brl.—To what motive do I owe this tender attention.

Ros.—Ah, sir! do not the whole village love you?

BEL .- You tremble; why are you alarm'd?

DUET.





"Rosina."-(53)





Bel.-Unveil your mind to me, Rosina. The graces of your form, the native dignity of your mind, a thousand circumstances, concur to convince me you were not born a villager.

Ros.-To you, sir, I can have no reserve. A pride, I hope an honest one, made me wish to sigh in secret

over my misfortunes.

Bel.—(Eagerly.) They are at an end. Ros.—Dorcas approaches, sir: she can better relate my melancholy story.

Enter Dorcas, L.

Don.-His honour here? Good lack! How sorry I am I happened to be from home. Troth, I'm sadly tired.

Ros.—Why would you insist on going? Indeed, sir, she will kill herself.

BEL .- Will you let me speak with you a moment alone, Dorcas F

Don.-Sure will I, your honour: Rosina, take this basket. (Rosina takes the basket, crosses, and exit, R.) Will your honour please to walk into our homely cottage?

BEL.-I thank you, Dorcas, but 'tis pleasanter here. Rosina has referred me to you, Dorcas, for an account of her birth, which I have long suspected to

be above her present situation.

Don .- To be sure, your honour, since the dear child gives me leave to speak, she's of as good a family as any in England. Her mother, sweet lady, was my bountiful old master's daughter, 'Squire Welford, of Lincolnshire.

BEL.—And her father?

Dor.—Was a brave gentleman, too; a colonel. charming couple they were, and loved one another so, it would have done your heart good to see them. His honour went to the Eastern Indies, to better his fortune; and madam would go with him. The ship was lost, and they, with all the little means they had, went to the bottom. Young Madam Rosina was their only child; they left her at school; but when this sad news came, the mistress did not care for keeping her, so the dear child has shared my poor morsel.

.—'Tis enough, Dorcas; you shall not repent your kindness to her. But her father's name? Bel.-

Dor.—Colonel Melville.

BEL .- Melville! I am too happy: he was the friend of my father's heart: a thousand times have I heard him lament his fate. Rosina's virtues shall not go unrewarded.

Don .- Yes, I know'd it wou'd be so. Heaven never forsakes the good man's children.

Enter Rustic hastily, R.

Rus.-Oh, sir! Rosina! Rosina is carried away-DOR. AND BEL.-Rosina!

Rus.—I heard her cries, and ran to the place; but she was gone.

Enter the first and second Irishmen, with large club sticks, R. U. E. RUSTIC gets round to L.

1st IRISH .-- (To Dorcas.) Dry your tears, my jewel; we have done for them.

Dor.—Have you sav'd her? I owe you more than life. 1sr Irish.—Faith, good woman, you owe me nothing at all. I'll tell your honour how it was. My comrades and I were crossing the meadow going home, when we saw them first; and hearing a woman cry, I looked up, and saw them putting her into a skiff against her will. Says I, "Paddy, is not that the clever little cratur that was glaning in the field with us this morning?" "'Tis so, sure in the field with us this morning renough," says he. "By St. Patrick," says I, we ran for the bare life, waded up to the knees, isid about us bravely with our shillaleys, knocked

them out of the skiff, and brought her back safe:

and here she comes, my jewel.

(ROSINA, R. U. E., is led forward by the reapers, and throws herself into DORCAS'S arms. CAPTAIN follows on, and gets down, L. WILLIAM and PHOEBE enter, L.)

Don .- I cannot speak-Art thou safe .

Rus.—Your honour need not go far a-field, I believe; it must have been some friend of the Captain's, for his French valet commanded the party.

CAPT. BEL .- I confess my crime; my passion for

Rosina hurried me out of myself.

BEL.—You have dishonoured me, dishonoured the glorious profession you have embraced. But begone, I renounce you as my brother, and resume my ill-placed friendship.

Capt. Bel.—Your indignation is just; I have offended almost past forgiveness. Will the offer of my

hand repair the injury?

Bel.—If Rosina accepts it, I am satisfied.
Ros.—(To Belville.) Will you, sir, suffer? This offer is a second insult. Whoever offends the object of his love is unworthy of obtaining her.

Bel.—This noble refusal paints your character. I know another, Rosina, who loves you with as strong though purer ardour: but if allowed to

Ros .- Do not, sir, envy me the calm delight of passing my independent days with Dorcas, in whom I have found a mother's tenderness.

Don.-Bless thee, my child! thy kindness melts my heart.

Bel.-Do you refuse me too, then, Rosina?

(ROSINA raises her eyes tenderly on BELVILLE, lowers them again, and leans on DORCAS.) Don .- You, sir? You :-

CAPT. BEL.-What do I hear?

(WILLIAM and PHEBE, who have got round to R., urge euch other to speak.)

PHEBE.—(R.) Do you speak to his honour, William? WILL.—(R.) No; do you speak, Phœbe.
PHEBE.—I am ashamed. William and I, your honour -William prayed me to let him keep me company -so he gained my good-will to have him, if so be my grandmother consents. (Curtseying, and playing with her apron.)

Will.-If your honour would be so good to speak to Dorcas.

Bel.-Dorcas, you must not refuse me anything to-day. I'll give William a farm.

DOR .- Your honour is too kind :- take her, William, and make her a good husband.

WILL.-That I will, Dame.

WILL. PHEBR. (To Belville.) Thank your honour.

[Belville joins their hands, they bow and curtsey. WILL.-What must I do with the purse, your honour? Dorcas would not take it.

BEL .- I believe my brother has the best right.

CAPT. BEL .- Tis yours, William; dispose of it as you please.

WILL.-Then I'll give it to our honest Irishmen, who fought so bravely for our Rosina. (Throws it to 1st Irishmen.)

1st Irish.—(Bowing.) Och, bless his honour's goodness! Now, Paddy, we'll go halve this same myself'll keep the money, and you shall have all the purse to yourself. Come along. [Exeunt, R. Bel.—You have made good use of it, William; nor

shall my gratitude stop here.

CAPT. BEL.—Allow me to retire, brother. When I am worthy of your esteem, I will return, and demand my rights in your affection.

Bel.-You must not leave us, brother. Resume the race of honour; be indeed a soldier, and be more than my brother-be my friend.











