

**PARLOR  
AMUSEMENTS FOR  
THE YOUNG FOLKS**

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Parlor Amusements for the Young Folks by G. B. Bartlett

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**G. B. BARTLETT**

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**FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS.**

**BY**

**G. B. BARTLETT.**



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## PREFACE.

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THE dramatic element exists, in a greater or less degree, in every mind; for the little child begins to imagine or personate some character at a very early age. The doll is invested with histrionic power, and plays many different rôles as time goes on; and the love of acting lasts after old age has dulled many other enjoyments. No pleasanter manner of whiling away a long evening can be found than by a simple entertainment in which old and young unite. The chief objection to such performances has been the trouble which attends their preparation. This little book is intended to obviate this difficulty, as the scenes are so arranged that the most of them can be performed in any parlor with simple properties and costumes, and most of them without study or practice. Every one of them, however, has been tried before large audiences in hundreds of cities, and they are now simplified and arranged for performance by old and young.

In the opening chapter, proof of the long experience of the manager is given; and the last ones are devoted to games of thought, in which new games, and old ones in a new dress, are presented in the hope that much benefit to the thinking powers may be gained, as well as amusement.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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As I stood on the stage of the new opera-house, all ready to begin, an irresistible desire to laugh nearly upset my gravity, caused by the funny contrast between the entertainment I was about to superintend and my first dramatic performance.

The house is crowded with the beauty and fashion of the city; and the receipts, for the benefit of a noble charity, will exceed a thousand dollars. The stage is furnished with every appliance which modern art has brought to the aid of the drama. By a touch of the bell, the orchestra can be set in motion, or stopped in the middle of the sweetest strain. By a turn of the hand, the scene can be plunged into utter darkness, or lighted with the brilliancy of daylight; which will flash into red sunrise, or fade into green moonlight, at will. At the sound of a whistle, angels will float from the flies, or demons spring through the floor. Quiet carpenters consult the plot, and the horizon melts into forest, and the palace at once becomes a kitchen. In the luxurious dressing-rooms, ladies and gentlemen of talent stand ready to lend the graces of refined culture to the attractions of the scene. At the rise of the curtain, a large ship, ornamented with quaint carving, bears a graceful company of beautiful blondes. Groups of classic statuary, and careful copies of pictures, succeed; and then a comedy is acted by amateurs, to whom the movements