

**THE KINGDOM OF
MOTHER
GOOSE, PP. 1-48**

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The Kingdom of Mother Goose, pp. 1-48 by Mrs. G. N. Bordman

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MRS. G. N. BORDMAN

**THE KINGDOM OF
MOTHER
GOOSE, PP. 1-48**

THE
KINGDOM
OF
MOTHER GOOSE.

A NEW FAIRY PLAY,
For Vestry and School
ENTERTAINMENTS.



WITH APPROPRIATE AND
EASY MUSIC
FOR YOUNG VOICES.

ALSO,
ORIGINAL RECITATIONS,
MUSIC, MOTION-SONGS, &c.,
FOR SCHOOL EXHIBITIONS.

By MRS. G. N. BORDMAN.

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CHARACTERS AND COSTUMES.

Silvercrown.—Queen of the Fairies, white tarlatan, trimmed with spangles. Crown of silver, and silver wand.

Constantine.—1st attendant, pink tarlatan trimmed with gold spangles or gold paper. Basket of mosses, gold wand.

Starlight.—2nd attendant, blue tarlatan trimmed with silver spangles or silver paper. Silver wand, with stars at the point.

Tranquillo.—A boy in harlequin suit, or bright jacket with short scanty skirt and striped stockings, all ornamented with bright paper of gold or silver. Skull cap with straight feather.

Batswing.—A boy in similar suit, pointed cap, and short wings.

Snip.—A fat boy in white, trimmed with black and gold paper. Yellow cap with black and gold band.

Redjacket.—A boy in red, covered with fantastic figures of gold and silver paper. Short skirt like the rest; bells on cap and belt; carries a silver bow and arrow.

Jolly Imps.—Eight or twelve boys, of uniform size, in bright jackets and scant short skirts, or puffed breeches, trimmed with bright colors. Silver bells on belts and skirts. Snug little caps with long stiff feather at side. Gossamer flags, wands and basket of leaves. Faces painted comic. Stockings ornamented with spangles.

Rosalind.—A simple rustic costume, broad brimmed hat, with pretty flowers and long ribbon ends. Carries a straw basket.

Nannette.—A similar dress suitable for a picnic.

Fairies having entranced the party are also supposed to have changed their costumes to beautiful glittering raiments. This can easily be done and will add immensely to stage effect. Chorus dresses may be ornamented with spangles, beads, gold and silver paper in bands and showy figures, as varied in style as possible. Over these dresses must be worn a cambric or calico skirt with sack or cape, which will conceal all ornament in the first act.

During the first part of the *second act* the chorus can easily take off the picnic suit and be ready to appear, thus saving the time to change the costume, which would be very troublesome if a large number of children took part.

The costumes suggested for the characters in the *third act*, can be varied according to taste or ingenuity; but should all be grotesque and comical, to be in keeping with the humor and spirit of the play. Characters should be careful to face the audience, with occasional gestures only, to the chorus, during acting and recitation.

STAGE TERMS AND DIRECTIONS.

Owing to the limited amount of space in ordinary halls and vestries, two entrances only, on each side would be most convenient, and all that the play really demands. For the benefit of those unaccustomed to stage terms, I deem it proper to use my own, with all necessary explanations.

The actor is supposed to face the audience. R., right; L., left; C., centre; L. C., left of centre; R. C., right of centre; R. F. E., right front entrance; L. F. E., left front entrance; R. R. E., right rear entrance; L. R. E. left rear entrance. In arranging scenery, give at least two-thirds of the room for your rear entrances, as most of the chorus will enter and exit from that direction during the evening.

THE KINGDOM OF MOTHER GOOSE.

A NEW FAIRY PLAY.

BY MRS. G. N. BORDMAN.

PROLOGUE.

(TO BE RECITED BY A LITTLE FAIRY BEFORE THE CURTAIN.)

Now all good gentlefolks assembled here,
I come before you not to tell the plot
Of this our little play, or frighten you
By staring wildly round with maniac eyes,
Or fill my speech with ghostly prophecy.
I come to say, if ghosts you see, I hope
'Twill not be fear that straightway makes each heart
Go pit-a-pat, — but rather that of joy; —
For you may rest assured we all shall try
Our very best, to act so well the part,
That you will quickly catch from every voice
The burthen of those dear familiar songs
So often breathed and sung at cradle time; —
Those rhymes that e'er have proved a soothing balm
To baby woes, — when every other way
Of soft persuasion fails to heal the wound.
We're only little folks who undertake
The task to-night; and so you will forgive
All we leave out, or put in by mistake;
Remembering, that although we fail, our hearts
Are filled with best intentions, as we all
Appear with loving tribute, both in verse and song
For Mother Goose, and days of Auld Lang Syne.

ACT FIRST.

Scene. A shady grove, with rustic seats, benches, &c. Lively music as the curtain rises. Children in peasant or picnic costumes, with baskets in hands. All dancing about and greeting each other. All step forward gaily, and sing with great spirit, — "The Splendor of Morning."

THE SPLENDOR OF MORNING.

Joyful and spirited.

Mrs. G. N. BORDMAN.

1. The shadows of night with the blessings of sleep, Have peaceful-ly vanished a - way;
 2. Now low by the roadside and deep in the grass, The blossoms of ev - ry bright hue
 3. The voice of the streamlet, the song of the lark, The sparrow and chick-a - dee's call,

In chorus u - nit-ing, we joy-ful-ly greet The birth of an - oth - er fair day.
 Per - fume the clear air with their beau-ti - ful breath, And shine thro' the di - a-mond dew.
 The springtime of life, with its beauty and bloom, What richness and freedom for all.

f CHORUS. *Brilliant.*

All hail to the sunlight a - cross the green hills! All hail to each glitter - ing ray; Let

Last chorus.
 nations and kingdoms triumphantly sing, All hail to the new-born day, Hail! Hail! Hail! Hail!

(At close of song, chorus retire to rear of stage, appearing to converse with each other. Rosalind and Nannette step to front.)

Rosalind. — What a glorious day for our merry making.

Nannette. — It is indeed. Not a cloud to be seen, or even a chill in the air, to mar the pleasure we have so long anticipated.

Rosalind. — I dare say the wood violets and lilies of the valley are long since up and dressed, awaiting our coming.

Nannette. — Oh yes! those little workers in the vale and forest are not caught nap-

ping at this hour of the morning. I have brought this pretty basket for my mosses and ferns, and I mean to have it brimful, too.

Rosalind. — In my pleasant rambles through the woods, I have learned where they grow brightest and thickest, and I shall be glad to help you gather them.

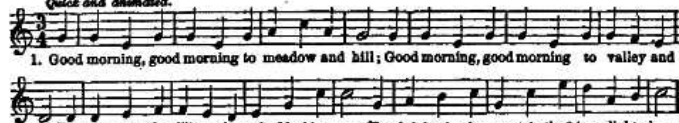
Nannette. — Thank you, Rosalind. You are always ready to make others happy, and it seems to be your chief delight.

(Loud cheers and laughter behind scenes. Enter [L. F. E.] band of little children with basket of flowers, singing as they come, —)

Good Morning.

G. N. B.

Quick and animated.



1. Good morning, good morning to meadow and hill; Good morning, good morning to valley and
 hill; How fragrant the lilies, the soft blushing rose, How bright o'er the mountain the fair sunlight glows.

2 Good morning, good morning to blossom and bee,
 Good morning, good morning to floweret and tree;
 Along the green pathway, resplendent with dew,
 The shining leaves whisper "Good morning to you."

3 Good morning, good morning to birds of the glen,
 Good morning, good morning to robin and wren,
 To voices that warble in woodland and grove,
 Good morning, good morning to all that I love.

(At close of second verse they are affectionately greeted by chorus.)

Rosalind. — (Addressing chorus.) — Well, we are all ready and equipped for the day's sport. Oh, look girls, beyond the willows! (pointing out at R.) there are the boats with the rest of our party, coming across the lake. (All cheer and wave handkerchiefs.) Boat song should commence softly behind scenes at R. R. E., gradually growing louder. Chorus take up *full chorus in unison*, waving hats and disappearing at R., as the last "Hurrah" dies away in the distance. (See *Boat Song*, p. 6.)

[At the close of song, enter the *Jolly Imps* from every direction, who while away the time in sportive pantomime. These should be sprightly little boys, who should jump about, join hands and dance around, make signs, etc., and perform funny antics in pantomime, accompanied by lively jig music.

[Chorus should accidentally drop a parasol or two, and also leave a lunch basket which *Imps* discover and appropriate for their amusement, opening parasol and promenading under it in a comical way, while two may sit under another parasol and eat up the contents of the basket. A great many comic antics may be introduced here to amuse the audience. Little fairies may appear in a pretty dance, conveying the idea that the forest is suddenly invested with all these emissaries from fairy land who are in pursuit of the children. After going through their gymnastics, chorus suddenly appear at R. R. E., running on the stage followed by *imps* and fairies who dance about them comically. Rosalind finally approaches one at front of stage, timidly, and addresses him.]

BOAT SONG.

MRS. G. N. BORDMAN.

Semi-chorus. Animated.

D.C. 1. Row, row, row, the sun is brightly glancing, Row, row, row, the waves are lightly dancing, Row, row, row, the
D.C. 2. Row, row, row, what splendour glid the morning, Row, row, row, what joys the day a-dorning, Row, row, row, our
D.C. 3. Row, row, row, tise swift its flight is winging, Row, row, row, glad nature's chorus singing, Row, row, row, the

FULL CHORUS. Repeat pp et dim.
End of last verse.

Fine.
moments how en-tran-sling; While as the ripples break, we row, row, row, }
hearts for pleasure louding; Now, then, lo - gather let us row, row, row. } Hurrah! Hurrah! Hur-rah!
air with ma-sic ring-ing. Dip, dip the oar as on we row, row, row. }

Full cho. in unison.

1. Far o'er the meadow, sweet flowers the air per-fuming, O - cean and for-est their
2. Oh come, let sor-row be - fore the sun - light van-ish, While dis-tant hill-tops re-
3. Ring out glad mu-sic, for ev' - ry heart re - joi - ces; Hark to the bells now re-
joy - ous tri - bute pay; Val - ley and hill-side with dew - y fresh-ness blooming,
-ech - o back our song; Morn'-ry en-shrouded with sor - row let us lan - ish,
-sounding o'er the plain! Birds in gay cho-rus u - nite their glad-ome voi - ces,
D.C. al Fine.
cres.
Oh! what mer - ry sport shall fill the hours to - day }
As with clear, me - lo - dious strains we float a - long. } Hurrah! Hurrah! Hur - rah!
Joy and fragrance come to sweeten ev' - ry strain. }

Rosalind.— Are you good friends, or do you intend to frighten us away to-day, and take possession of this place? Can you not speak? (Lively music.) *Imps* join hands and skip around Rosalind, bob their heads, kick out their legs, etc., and touch her lightly with their gossamer flags. She staggers, grows sleepy, yawns, rubs her eyes and tries to move but cannot. Stares at vacancy. *Imps* disappear at R. Chorus surround Rosalind in a compact group, saying,—“Rosalind, dear Rosalind! Oh, she is charmed! These are witches surely. Oh, dear Rosalind, do speak to us.” (Soft music.)

Rosalind, supported by Nannette, and some member of chorus, appears to dream, as she stands with eyes fixed and sings, pointing off in the distance,—

I see the golden sunset, I see the fading day,
I'm dreaming, sweetly dreaming, my senses steal away.

[Sing melody "Sunset," at end of 1st act.] While she sings, chorus all gather round her listening. Imps enter at R., march round the group, touch them with their flags or wands, and disappear at [L]—Chorus wink, nod, yawn, stagger about the stage leaning upon each other, and gradually fall, or recline in graceful groups, appearing to be asleep. *Soft music should be kept up all through this pantomime.* Enter Silvercrown at R. F. E., with bunch of leaves and arrow. Appears to scatter a charmed grain, from a gold basket, over the sleeping chorus. Walks on tip-toe, and speaks low but distinct.

Silvercrown—Now with what charm complete my magic spell
Has crippled every sense. Sweet merry eyes,
That but a moment since, like twinkling dew
Upon the velvet cheek of opening rose
Flashed forth the sunlight,—so, blue merry eyes,
Brown merry eyes, black, gray, and all the rest,
Beneath their silken lashes calmly sleep.
So shall they lie, till twilight drapes the hills,
And night winds gently rock the mother bird
Within her nest. My trusty messengers
Shall swift repel the buzzing honey bee,
The giddy fly, the croaking frog, the gnat,
And every pest that may despoil the dream,
Or stir the pulse of slumbering innocence.
When purple clouds have settled down the West
And stars peep out,—then, with my glittering troop
To cheer the way with gladsome voice and song,
I'll make them scamper on, buoyant and light,
Like hurrying leaves before the sportive wind.
Within the kingdom of dear Mother Goose
They finally shall land; where, wide awake,
They soon shall see the wondrous dame herself;
While all the heroes of her ancient rhymes
Shall stand before her throne with funny speech,
And ghostly pantomime. I'll make the time
Pass with uproarious laughter and delight;—
And when the little ghosts have bid adieu,
I'll lead this happy chorus back again