

**ONCE UPON A TIME: OR THE  
ROMANTIC STORY OF THE LIFE  
OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS AN  
ORIGINAL AND ABORIGINAL  
EXTRAVAGANZA**

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Once Upon a Time: Or the Romantic Story of the Life of Christopher Columbus an original and aboriginal extravaganza by Anonymous

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## DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS .....	
FERDINAND, King of Castile.....	
POWHATAN, Mayor of Boston.....	
VASCO NUNEZ DE BUTLOAH, 1st Mate,	
DON CÆSAR DE BENZINE, 2d Mate....	
CŒUR DE LION JONES, Purser.....	
SIGNOR GAZELLI, Singing and } .....	
Dancing Master. } .....	
PAGE.....	
ISABELLA, Queen of Castile.....	
ISABELLE OF PORTUGAL, Queen's } .....	
Mother. } .....	
POCAHONTAS, } Daughters of Pow-	
MINNEBOOHOO } hatan.	
MUMMY .....	
Courtiers, Maids of Honor, Castle Retainers, Aldermen,	
Councillmen, Squaws, Sailors, &c.	

## ARGUMENT.

Christopher Columbus, desiring to escape from his creditors, solicits aid from the King and Queen. The latter, who admires C. C., offers to pledge her jewels, and while she is in search of them the King agrees to furnish Christopher with \$20,000 provided he will abduct his (Ferdinand's) mother-in-law—Isabella, of Portugal. C. C. takes her and the Mummy aboard the vessel and sets sail for Boston, where he arrives after many vicissitudes. During the voyage Isabella lays siege to his heart without success, and finally accepts the offer of the Purser, to the joy of Christopher.

The party are received on Boston Common by Mayor Powhatan, the Board of Aldermen and Common Council, assisted by Pocahontas and Minneboohoo. During the interview Columbus and Pocahontas become enamored with one another, to the wrath of Powhatan and the great disgust of Minneboohoo, who had other plans for Columbus, more to her liking. Powhatan takes a fancy to the Mummy, and finally agrees to give Pocahontas in exchange for her. Before this, however, Pocahontas desiring to run away with Columbus, has quietly exchanged costumes with the Mummy, and as a result C. C. takes the Mummy with him and leaves Pocahontas with her father.

A lapse of several years takes place between the third and fourth acts, during which Columbus has been banished by Ferdinand, while Pocahontas and Minneboohoo have come to Spain by steamer in a vain search for Christopher. At the opening of the fourth act the Queen is receiving a birth-day gift from her Courtiers and Maids of Honor, after which the Queen exacts a promise from Ferdinand that he will grant her every wish on her birth-day, and immediately afterward a page announces the capture of a vagrant, whom Ferdinand orders brought in for trial and sentence. Of course the prisoner proves to be Cotnamus, and the King being determined to punish him, is besought in vain by Pocahontas to spare him; but the Queen requesting it also, and reminding him of his pledge, Ferdinand accepts the situation, and not only pardons Christopher but raises him to rank again, to the joy of all except Minneboohoo, who refuses to be comforted.

## ERRATA.

- PAGE 2—For "Marquis" read "Grand Master."
- PAGE 6—In examining the hamper Isabelle discovers sailor secreted therein and faints.
- PAGE 15—For "angel" read "angry."
- PAGE 18—In tenth line, for "He" read "One." In "Explanation," for "a placard" read "placards." For "it" read "them."
- PAGE 26—In fourteenth line, read ("Introducing Mummy.")
- PAGE 35—For "those words" read "that word."
- PAGE 38—For "Columbus" read "The prisoner."



# ONCE UPON A TIME.

## ACT I.

SCENE.—*Interior of Castle in Spain.*

(*On rising of Curtain the QUEEN—attired in morning costume—is seen receiving the homage of her servants, while FERDINAND rocks the baby.*)

### OPENING CHORUS.

AIR.—“*Happy and Light.*” Bohemian Girl.

We are a merry set of men  
And maidens in this castle here;  
Light is our work and large our pay,  
No cause have we to shed a tear.  
Early each morn we come to greet our Queen  
Of graceful person and commanding mien.  
Happy are we, from sorrow free,  
Who would not in our places be?  
We are a merry set of men  
And maidens in this castle here,  
No cause have we to shed a tear.

(*Exit CHORUS, at C., followed by QUEEN.*)

AIR.—Gottschalk's “*Berceuse.*”

FERDINAND. (*Rocking cradle and singing.*)

Slumber on, baby dear,  
Never hear thy father sigh;  
Never mind the silent tear,  
While he sings thy lullaby.

May thy life ever be  
Free from sorrow, and from care;  
From thy path danger flee,  
'T is thy father's earnest prayer.

Slumber soft, baby mine,  
Never hear thy father sigh;  
Angel arms thee entwine,  
While he sings thy lullaby. (*Sighs furiously.*)

(Enter ISABELLE OF PORTUGAL at L.)

AIR.—"Sing a Song of Sixpence."

- ISABELLE. Why dost thou sigh, my dearest son-in-law,  
What is the sorrow rending thy heart,  
Fearest thou that Juana Beltraneja\*  
Will of thy kingdom by force take a part?
- FERD. Alack! sweet mother, 't is not her I dread,  
A danger far surpassing that appears—
- ISA. 'T is Calatrava! Curses on his head!  
Do n't I wish I had a chance to pull his ears!  
Say but the word, I'll —
- FERD. Nay, mother, do not stir,  
'T is not for him I sigh, nor yet for her;  
But on the morrow—how I hate the word—  
Dost thou not know, nor guess it—hast  
thou not heard?

(ISA. shakes her head.)

- FERD. To-morrow's quarter-day upon that old "Navarre,  
Asturias and Portugal Narrow Gauge R. R."  
I have but a single crown, and though 't is quarter-day,  
I'm a bankrupt sovereign—that I'm frank to say.  
I would try to beat the road, but really 't would n't do,  
For Conductor Daniels is the man that now goes  
through.  
And on the morrow—perdition sieze that day!—  
Columbus comes to bore us, and is certain sure to stay  
Until we subsidize his line to far Cathay.  
If there's a way to get a pass I'd like to pass away.  
Baby also needs some shoes, so his mother said,  
Oh! I'm weary, I'm a-weary, would that I were  
dead! (Sighs and rocks cradle.)

- ISA. Sigh on, my lord, a royal scion still thou art,  
Yet still thou'rt sighin'. Oh! sit still my heart!

(Fearful racket heard outside.)

- FERD. (Starting up and overturning cradle.)  
Great Scot! what's that! What's all that bobbery,  
ma'am?
- ISA. That, sire, is my daughter; she is making barberry jam.  
I will call her in a moment, you perhaps can cause  
your spouse  
To 'spouse your cause. (At window.) There's some  
body a-coming to this house.
- FERD. (Ring heard.) I'll bet my neck it is his ring.  
(Aside.) I'd like to wring his neck!
- ISA. You keep him here a minute; I must fix up a speck.

\* Pretender to the throne—assisted by Marquis of Calatrava.

(Exit ISA. at L., casting a shy glance at COLUMBUS, who enters at R., evidently much embarrassed, and tries to hang his hat on a hole in the wall, &c.)

AIR.—"Believe me, if all those Endearing Young Charms."

FERD. Ah! Signor ; I believe, I've seen you here before—  
Your hat, oh! what a A is—just hang it on the floor—

(FERD. suits the action to the word.)

Though I missed you for a - I was sure you'd , gain;  
Still I think you're quite an \* so much for us and  
Spain.

Yes, I knew I'd ; Take a - of that cologne.

(C. C. takes ammonia by mistake, and groans dismally.)

Don't groan again like that, my man. Why, what a  
man you've grown!

C. C. Oh, yes! I've reached the age of man, and now I  
manage must  
To get some cash. I trust, my friend, you'll give it  
me on trust.

FERD. Indeed I would, but all my cash was in Fall River  
stocks.  
I've not a single mill now left—I'm in a dreadful box!  
Here comes our chaste and gracious Queen; perchance  
she hath a way  
To raise the funds. Don't leave, C. C.; I think  
you'd better stay.

(Enter QUEEN, at L.)

AIR.—"Coming Through the Rye."

## 1.

QUEEN. Good-morrow, brother Christopher. What brings  
you here so soon—  
To what are we indebted, sir, for such a priceless  
boon  
As your presence at our castle? We had feared  
't was of the past,  
Though I had a present-i-ment that you would  
come at last.

## 2.

C. C. Forsooth! dear madame, I had hoped your hand  
would open be  
To help your bankrupted C. C. to 'scape beyond  
the sea.  
I ask not much, my lady Queen—some easy  
foreign mission  
To a healthful place across the pond where there's  
no extradition.