THE

PEACOCK "*AT HOME*:"

A

SEQUEL

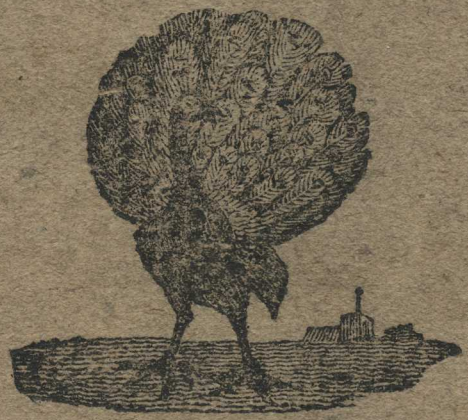
TO THE

BUTTERFLY'S BALL.

WRITTEN BY A LADY.

AND

ILLUSTRATED WITH ELEGANT ENGRAVINGS.



LONDON:
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1807.

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Frontispiece.

"The Peacock addressing his Mate.

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H. Bryer, Printer, Bridge-Street, Blackfriars.

THE

PEACOCK "*AT HOME.*"

THE Butterfly's Ball, and the Grasshopper's Feasts,
Excited the spleen of the Birds and the Beasts:
For their mirth and good cheer—of the Bee was the theme,
And the Gnat blew his horn, as he danc'd in the beam.
'Twas humm'd by the Beetle, 'twas buzz'd by the Fly,
And sung by the myriads that sport 'neath the sky.

But alas ! they return'd not ; and she had no taste
To appear in a costume of vine-leaves or paste.
The WOODCOCK prefer'd his lone haunt on the moor ;
And the Traveller, SWALLOW, was still on his tour.
The CUCKOO, who should have been one of the guests,
Was rambling on visits to other Bird's Nests.
But the rest, all accepted the kind invitation,
And much bustle it caus'd in the plumed creation :
Such ruffling of feathers, such pruning of coats
Such chirping, such whistling, such clearing of throats.
Such polishing bills, and such oiling of pinions !
Had never been known in the biped dominions.

"Such ruffling of feathers, such pruning of coats," &c.
P. 6.

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The TAYLOR BIRD offer'd to make up new clothes ;
For all the young Birdlings, who wish'd to be Beaux :
He made for the ROBIN a doublet of red,
And a new velvet cap for the GOLDFINCH's head ;
He added a plume to the WREN's golden crest,
And spangled with silver the GUINEA-FOWL's breast ;
While the HALCYON bent over the streamlet to view,
How pretty she look'd in her boddice of blue !
Thus adorn'd, they set off for the Peacock's abode,
With the Guide INDICATOR*, who shew'd them the road :

* Cuculus Indicator, a Bird of Cuckow kind, found in the interior parts of Africa ; it has a shrill note, which the Natives answer by a soft whistle ; and the Birds repeating the note, the Natives are thereby conducted to the wild Bee-hives, which this Bird frequents.

From all points of the compass, came Birds of all feather;
And the PARROT can tell who and who were together.
There came Lord CASSOWARY and General FLAMINGO,
And Don PEROQUETO, escap'd from Domingo;
From his high rock-built eyrie the EAGLE came forth,
And the Duchess of PTARMIGAN flew from the North.
The GREBE and the EIDER DUCK came up by water,
With the SWAN, who brought out the young CYGNET, her daughter.
From his woodland abode came the PHEASANT, to meet
Two kindred, arriv'd by the last India fleet:
The one, like a Nabob, in habit most splendid,
Where gold with each hue of the Rainbow was blended:

In silver and black, like a fair pensive Maid,
Who mourns for her love! was the other array'd.
The CHOUGH came from Cornwall, and brought up his Wife;
The GROUSE travell'd south, from his Lairdship in Fife;
The BUNTING forsook her soft nest in the reeds;
And the WIDOW-BIRD came, though she still wore her weeds;
Sir John HERON, of the Lakes, strutted in a *grand pas*,
But no card had been sent to the pilfering DAW,
As the Peacock kept up his progenitors' quarrel,
Which Æsop relates, about cast-off apparel;
For Birds are like Men in their contests together,
And, in questions of right, can dispute for a feather.

The PEACOCK, Imperial, the pride of his race,
Receiv'd all his guests with an infinite grace,
Wav'd high his blue neck, and his train he display'd,
Embroider'd with gold, and with em'ralds inlaid.
Then with all the gay troop to the shrubb'ry repair'd,
Where the musical Birds had a concert prepar'd;
A holly bush form'd the Orchestra, and in it
Sat the Black-bird, the Thrush, the Lark, and the Linnet;
A BULL-FINCH, a captive! almost from the nest,
Now escap'd from his cage, and, with liberty blest,
In a sweet mellow tone, join'd the lessons of art
With the accents of nature, which flow'd from his heart.

"A Holly bush form'd the Orchestra, and in it," &c.

The CANARY, a much-admir'd foreign musician,
Condescended to sing to the Fowls of condition.
While the NIGHTINGALE warbled, and quaver'd so fine,
That they all clapp'd their wings, and pronounc'd it divine!
The SKY LARK, in extacy, sang from a cloud,
And CHANTICLEER crow'd, and the YAFFIL laugh'd loud.
The dancing began, when the singing was over;
A DOTTERELL first open'd the ball with the PLOVER;
Baron STORK, in a waltz, was allow'd to excel,
With his beautiful partner, the fair DEMOISELLE*

*The Numidian Crane, or Demoiselle, from the elegance of its appearance, and its singular carriage, is called the Demoiselle, which means the young Lady; for this Bird walks very gracefully, and sometimes skips and leaps, as though it were trying to dance.

And a newly-fledg'd GOSLING, so spruce and genteel,
A minuet swam with young Mr. TEAL.
A London-bred SPARROW—a pert forward Cit!
Danc'd a reel with Miss WAGTAIL, and little TOM TIT.
And the Sieur GUILLEMOT next perform'd a *pas seul*,
While the elderly Bipeds were playing a Pool.
The Dowager Lady TOUCAN first cut in,
With old Doctor BUZZARD, and Adm'ral PENGUIN,
From Ivy-bush Tow'r came Dame OWLET the Wise,
And Counsellor CROSSBILL sat by to advise.
The Birds past their prime, o'er whose *heads* it was fated,
Should pass many St. Valentines—yet be unmated,

Look'd on, and remark'd, that the prudent and sage,
Were quite overlook'd in this frivolous age,
When Birds, scarce pen-feather'd, were brought to a rout,
Forward Chits! from the egg-shell but newly come out;
That in their youthful days, they ne'er witness'd such frisking,
And how wrong! in the GREENFINCH to flirt with the SISKIN.
So thought Lady MACKAW, and her Friend COCKATOO,
And the RAVEN foretold that "no good could ensue!"
They censur'd the BANTAM for strutting and crowing,
In those vile pantaloons, which he fancied look'd knowing
And a want of decorum caus'd many demurs,
Against the GAME CHICKEN, for coming in spurs.

Old Alderman CORM'RANT, for supper impatient,
At the Eating-room door, for an hour had been station'd,
Till a MAGPIE, at length, the banquet announcing,
Gave the signal, long wish'd for, of clamouring and pouning ;
At the well-furnish'd board all were eager to perch
But the little Miss CREEPERS were left in the lurch.

Description must fail ; and the pen is unable
To describe all the lux'ries which cover'd the table.
Each delicate viand that taste could denote,
Wasps *a la sauce piquante*, and Flies *en compôte ;*
Worms and Frogs *en friture*, for the web-footed Fowl,
And a barebecued Mouse was prepar'd for the Owl ;

"The Razor-bill carv'd for the famishing group," &c.

Nuts, grains, fruit, and fish, to regale ev'ry palate,
And groundsel and chick-weed serv'd up in a sallad.
The RAZOR-BILL carv'd for the famishing group,
And the SPOON-BILL obligingly ladled the soup;
So they fill'd all their crops with the dainties before 'em,
And the tables were clear'd with the utmost decorum.
When they gaily had caroll'd till peep of the dawn,
The Lark gently hinted, 'twas time to be gone;
And his clarion, so shrill, gave the company warning,
That Chanticleer scented the gales of the morning.
So they chirp'd, in full chorus, a friendly adieu;
And, with hearts quite as light as the plumage that grew
On their merry-thought bosoms, away they all flew.....

Then long live the PEACOCK, in splendour unmatch'd,
Whose Ball shall be talk'd of, by Birds yet unhatch'd
His praise let the Trumpeter* loudly proclaim,
And the Goose lend her quill to transmit it to Fame.

* The Agami, or Trumpeter, a native of America, remarkable for a singular noise, resembling the instrument from which it takes its name.

THE END.

H. Bryer, Printer, Bridge-Street, Blackfriars.

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PZ 6
1807
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OF

J. HARRIS

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