

- “To give magnificence a meaning, and unite antiquarian knowledge with polite entertainment, was a task hitherto unattempted by the contrivers of our Pantomime exhibitions. Such praise, however, the acting manager of Covent Garden theatre may justly claim, on the score of *Harlequin Free-Mason*, which is now representing before greater crowds than perhaps were ever attracted by *Perseus and Andromeda* [in 1730], the *Rape of Proserpine* [in 1727], or the celebrated *Sorcerer* [i.e. *The Magician*, in 1721]. The beauty of the first scene, in which a setting sun is admirably contrived, the Dutch winter piece, with numberless skate[r]s moving in the most natural attitudes, and, above all, the imperfect building, finished in a moment at the command of Harlequin, can be exceeded only by the pomp of the historic procession which closes the whole, and offers the richest and most intelligent spectacle that ever yet appeared on an English stage” (*Gentleman’s Magazine*, Feb. 1781, pp. 58-59, which also prints a detailed description of the pageant).
- Account-Book, 1 Feb.: Paid Dibdin for music, &c. of HARLEQUIN FREE-MASON £70. Receipts: £236 2s. (230/3; 5/19).
- THE LORD OF THE MANOR. As 27 Dec. Also QUEEN MAB. As 30 Sept. *Friday 29*
DANCING. In afterpiece, by Blurton, &c. CG
COMMENT. Receipts: £135 2s. 6d. (107/12/0; 27/8/0; 0/2/6). DL
- MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING. As 19 Oct. Also HARLEQUIN FREE-MASON. As 29 Dec. CG
DANCING. *Masquerade Dance*, as 19 Oct.
COMMENT. Receipts: £212 3s. (207/8; 4/15).
- RINALDO. As 23 Dec. King’s
DANCING. As 19 Dec. throughout.

January 1781

- THE LORD OF THE MANOR. As 27 Dec. 1780. Also THE JUBILEE. As 12 Dec. 1780. *Monday 1*
COMMENT. Receipts: £150 4s. (124/19/0; 25/2/6; 0/2/6). DL
- HAMLET. As 26 Oct. 1780, but King – Fearon // Queen (1st time) – Mrs Green; Ophelia – Mrs Mattocks. Also HARLEQUIN FREE-MASON. As 29 Dec. 1780, but “On account of Reinhold’s Hoarseness Cubitt undertook his character at a short notice” (*Public Advertiser*, 2 Jan.). Presumably Reinhold resumed his part on or about 13 Jan. CG
COMMENT. [In mainpiece Fearon is assigned to both the King and Marcellus. Marcellus was probably acted by Booth, as on 19 Mar.] Receipts: £235 19s. (234/10; 1/9).
- ZARA. As 15 Dec. 1780, but Orasmin – Phillimore. Also THE LYAR. As 18 Nov. 1780. *Tuesday 2*
DANCING. End of mainpiece *The Countryman Deceiv’d* by Sg and Sga Zuchelli, Henry, Sga Crespi, Delpini. DL
COMMENT. [On this night Sg and Sga Zuchelli, Henry and Sga Crespi also danced in 3 ballets at King’s. A probable explanation is that the play at DL began three-quarters of an hour earlier than did the opera.] Receipts: £103 4s. (69/16; 31/18; 1/10).