BRAHAM'S "DEATH OF NELSON," AND LADY HAMILTON.

Mr. Samuel Spring, formerly the box book-keeper of Drury-lane Theatre, was what is called a character, and had acquired an excessive faith in Mathews' infailibility in all things connected with his mental faculties; and Mathews, discovering this, was always saying or doing something (previously contrived) that ensured the increasing wonder and reliance upon the gifted powers of the comedian.

After the burning down of the two great patent theatres, the Drury-lane company acted at the Lyceum; and in 1810 an opera was performing there in which Braham saug a very popular soug, the "Death of Nelson." Mathews conversing one day with Lady Hamilton, was questioned by her as to the merits of the new opera, at the same time stating her intention of accompanying some friends of hers to the theatre that evening. Mathews considerately advised her ladyship to forego her intention, explaining that there was a song in the piece, the subject of which would touch her feelings, and distress her very much. Whether Lady Hamilton forgot this prudent warning, or whether she suffered her desire to listen to the hero's praise to overcome her apprehension of the result, or from whatever canse, it so fell out that Mathews per-

ceived the lady duly seated in a private box, with her little adopted Horatio at her side. It needed no ghost to tell Mathews the scene that would follow, and as soon, therefore, as he quitted the stage, seeing Spring, he thus addressed him, first taking out his watch, and looking at it with a solemn and earnest expression of face—"Spring, I give you notice that at about twenty minutes past nine o'clock (the usual period when the "Death of Nelson" occurred) a large lady now sitting in the stage box opposite will be taken very ill, and require assistance. Do not be out of the way, but at the time mentioned be ready with a glass of water and a smelling hottle, for she will be attacked with a violent fit at the period I have mentioned." Spring looked into Mathews' face with a faint smile upon his lips, which immediately subsided into a thoughtful expression of countenance. At length the critical period arrived, Braham hegan his song, and hefore the second verse was finished, sobs and cries were heard all over the small theatre. Spring rushed into the green-room "pale as his shirt," and seizing the water hastened to the fatal box, exclaiming with an awe-struck voice us he hastily passed Mathews behind the scenes—"Oh, sir, you are a conjuror! The lady is m strong convulsions!—Fraser's Maguzine.

THE FAIRIES.









THE VICTORY.

Hark,-how the church bell's thundering harmony Stuns the glad ear! tidings of joy have come, Good tidings of great joy! Two gallant ships Met on the element,—they met, they fought
A desperate fight!—good tidings of great joy!
Old England triumph'd! yet another day
Of glory for the rulers of the waves!
For those who fell, 'twas in their country's cause, They have their passing paragraph of praise And are forgotten.

There was one who died

In that day's glery, whose obscurer name No proud historian's page will chronicle. Peace to his honest soul! I read his name, 'Twas in the list of slaughter, and bless'd God The sound was not familiar to mine ear. But it was told me after that this man Was one whom lawful violence had forc'd From his own home, and wife, and little ones, Who by his labour liv'd; that he was one Whuse uncorrupted heart could keenly feel A husband's love, a father's anxiousness; That from the wages of his toil he fed