

THE MAID OF ATHENS.

(Continued from page 7.)

"Alonzo Todd, sir, of the Remove," stuttered Alonzo. "I—I thought you knew, sir."

"Wha-at! Todd! Then what is the meaning of this masquerade?" thundered the Head.

Alonzo cast a longing eye towards the door.

"Todd," repeated the Head—"Todd! This is—is amazing! How dare you, Todd, come here in that ridiculous attire, and pass yourself off as my aunt?"

"I—I didn't, sir! Oh, dear! I—I've just come home from the fancy-dress ball, sir!" shrieked Alonzo. "I was very much surprised when Trotter showed me in here. He said that you were expecting me, and—and I was very much surprised indeed, especially when Miss Locke kissed me."

Miss Locke turned crimson.

The Head looked fixedly at him for a moment. But Todd was evidently telling the truth, and the Head's face relaxed. He passed his hand over his mouth. Miss Tranter was smiling, and Molly was almost in hysterics.

"Bless my soul!" exclaimed the Head. "You—you are a most extraordinary boy, Todd! Why are you dressed in feminine attire, and in such very extraordinary attire?"

"I—I was at the fancy-dress ball, sir. I—I was the Maid of Athens. And I came home early, and—and——"

"The Maid of Athens! Ha, ha, ha! I—I mean this is—is extraordinary! Go away at once, Todd—go away! I should be very angry with you, only I know that you are the most stupid boy in the school. Go—go away!"

Alonzo Todd was only too glad to go away. With a swish of skirts he vanished. And the Head sank down in his chair and gasped with laughter.

Harry Wharton & Co. returned in great spirits from the fancy-dress ball, but they found Alonzo looking distressed. With a lugubrious face he explained to them the peculiar mistake that had arisen on his return to Greyfriars. But the chums of the Remove did not look distressed or lugubrious when they heard it. They shrieked, and they roared, and they yelled.

"Oh, Alonzo!" gasped Peter. "Oh, Alonzo! I said you'd take the biscuit in that costume! And you've taken it—taken it whole! Ha, ha, ha!"

THE END.

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