

The Quaker Girl

A Musical Play in three acts.

Book by JAMES T. TANNER & EMILE LITTLER

Lyrics by ADRIAN ROSS & PERCY GREENBANK

Music by LIONEL MONCKTON

Synopsis of Scenes

Act One An English Country Village

Act Two Madame Blum's Dressmaking Salon, Paris

Act Three The Pre' Catalan outside Paris

The Quaker Girl was first produced at the Adelphi Theatre on November 5th .1910 and ran for 536 performances with a cast starring Gertie Millar and Joe Coyne. This popular success was subsequently played all over the world,

Emile Littler revised the text and revived the piece producing it himself at the London Coliseum on the 25th May, 1944. This production closed owing to flying bombs, went on tour, and later opened again in London, this time at Stoll Theatre, in February 1945

The Quaker Girl then toured England and Scotland continuously from the summer of 1945 until December, 1948, being received everywhere with the greatest enthusiasm.

Nathaniel and Rachel Pym are the prim and proper pair rulers of an early 19th century Quaker community of an English village. Their niece, Prudence, longs for a more exciting life and someone to love. A mysterious French lady arrives who is, in fact, the exiled Princess Mathilde of France. She is followed by Captain Charteris (pronounced "Charters"), whom she intends to marry in the village church despite her previous engagement. Charteris has his best man with him, Tony Chute, of the American Embassy in Paris, as well as Madame Blum, a famous Parisian dressmaker. Prudence meets Tony, and they are attracted to one another. Madame Blum, struck by Prudence's charmingly simple grey Quaker dress, tries to persuade her to accompany her back to Paris. The marriage ceremony takes place and Prudence, carried away by the gaiety of the scene, is induced to take a sip of champagne. At this moment, with the wine to her lips, her aunt and uncle and the other Quakers appear on the scene. They sternly command her to leave these sinful people. Prudence decides to leave the dull life behind and to follow Madame Blum and the Princess to Paris. She is disowned by her family.

Employed as a mannequin in Madame Blum's establishment in Paris, Prudence's simple costume becomes all the rage among the women, and she herself becomes extremely popular with the young men, including Prince Carlo (who had been engaged to Princess Mathilde) and Monsieur Duhamel, a distinguished senator. This attention is most unwelcome to Tony Chute, who still has feelings for Prudence. The princess is disguised as one of Madame Blum's work girls, since she has been exiled for being a Bonapartiste. Tony's ex-girlfriend, Diane, a mercurial French actress, conspires to interfere with Tony and Prudence's budding romance. She has love letters from Duhamel, Carlo and Tony and intends to give Prudence the letters from Tony. At a costume fitting where Prudence is modeling a dress, Diane slips the letters into Prudence's pocket. But she inadvertently passes along Duhamel's letters, instead of Tony's.

Prince Carlo invites all of Blum's employees to a Ball, but Tony, knowing the Prince's reputation as a seducer, begs Prudence not to go. Prudence promises, and she receives her first kiss. Princess Mathilde is being pursued by Monsieur Larose, the Chief of Police, and the Prince has recognized Princess Mathilde. He threatens to reveal her identity to Larose unless Prudence accompanies him to the ball. For the sake of Mathilde, Prudence reluctantly agrees, breaking her promise to Tony. Tony is furious, believing her to be unfaithful. At the lavish ball, Prudence, evading the prince, finds herself alone with her other suitor, Duhamel. She shows him letters. Duhamel assumes she is trying to blackmail him into letting Mathilde stay in France, but Prudence tells him she merely wants to return the letters to their rightful owner. Ashamed of his suspicion, and humbled by her simple honesty, Duhamel agrees to allow Mathilde to remain in Paris. Tony now learns the true story, and he begs forgiveness for having doubted her. All ends happily, with Prudence accompanying him back to the New World.