

THE  
ELEPHANT'S BALL,

AND

*Grand Fete Champetre:*

INTENDED AS

A COMPANION TO THOSE MUCH-ADMIR'D PIECES,

THE

BUTTERFLY'S BALL,

AND

THE PEACOCK "AT HOME."

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*By W. B.*

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ILLUSTRATED WITH ELEGANT ENGRAVINGS,



LONDON: Printed for J. HARRIS, Successor to E. NEWBERY,  
at the Original Juvenile Library, the Corner  
of St. Paul's Church-Yard,

1807.



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*"Next Bruin stood up with a good natwid smile." p.11.*





*"The Elephant, the Monkey, and the Lion."*



The Elephant, stately, majestic and tall,  
 With Cousin Rhinoceros open'd the ball—  
 With dignified mien the two partners advanc'd,  
 And the *De la Cour* minuet gracefully danc'd.  
 The Lion and Unicorn, beasts of great fame,  
 With much admiration, accomplish'd the same.  
 The Tiger and Leopard, an active young pair,  
 Perform'd a brisk jig, with an excellent air.  
 Next Bruin\* stood up with a good natur'd smile,  
 And caper'd a horn-pipe, in singular style,  
 With a staff in his paws, and erect all the while.

\* The Bear.



The Fox, Wolf, and Panther, their humours to please,

Danc'd three-handed reels with much spirit and ease.

A few tried cotillions, and such like French fancies,

But most of them join'd in John Bull's country dances.

Some beasts were not us'd to these violent motions,

And some were too old or too grave in their notions ;

Of these a great many diverted their hours

With whist, lue, backgammon, quadrille or all-fours.

Much time being spent in these pleasing diversions,

A motion was made to remit their exertions :

For supper was waiting ; which, on this occasion,

Was manag'd with skill, and exact regulation.

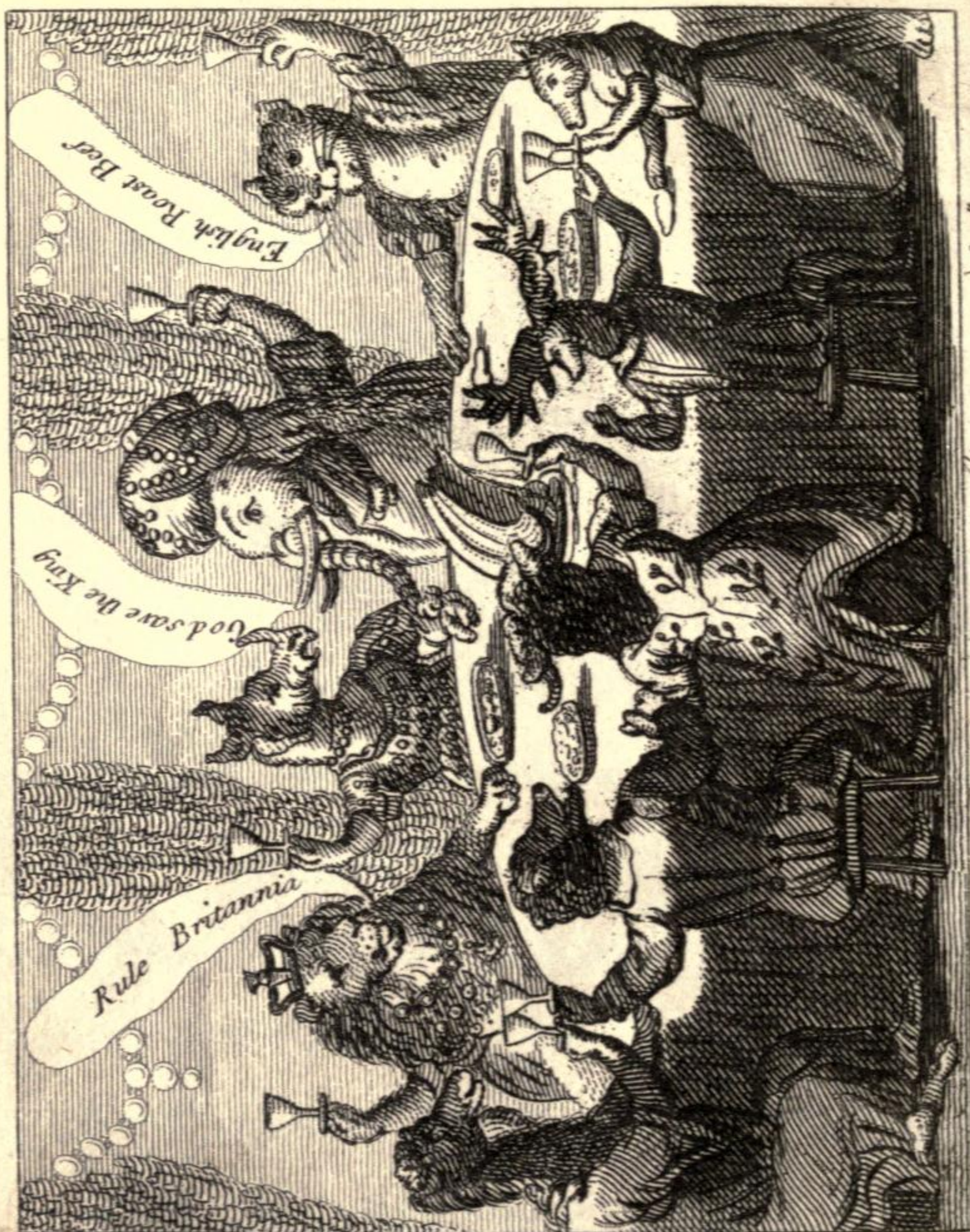


The bosom of earth a firm table supply'd—  
 The cloth was green grass, with gay flow'rets bedy'd;  
 The various utensils by nature were cast,  
 And suited completely this antique repast.  
 The generous host had provided great plenty,  
 To suit various palates, of every dainty.  
 Some scores of fat oxen were roasted entire,  
 For those whose keen stomachs plain beef might require.  
 Profusion of veal, nice lamb, and good mutton,  
 To tickle the taste of each more refin'd glutton—  
 Abundance of fish, game and poultry, for those  
 Whose epicure palates such niceties chose.



Ripe fruits and rich sweet meats were serv'd, in great store,  
Of which much remain'd when the banquet was o'er ;  
For, as to mild foods of the vegetive kind,  
Few guests at the table to these were inclin'd ;  
Rare hap for such persons as travell'd that way,  
By chance or design, on the following day.  
On wine and strong spirits few chose to regale,  
As most were accustom'd to Adam's old ale.  
When supper was ended, and each happy guest  
Had freely partaken of what he lov'd best ;  
Of toasts and of sentiments various were giv'n ;  
As " Health to our Host, and the Land that we live in."





"The Dinner of the Lioness" - a political cartoon by John Leech, published in Punch, 1841.



The former was drank with huzzas, three-times-three,

Which echo repeated with rapturous glee.

Now mirth and good humour pervaded the throng,

And each was requested to furnish a song,

Which many comply'd with ; but such as deny'd,

Some whimsical laughable story supply'd.

The Lion, "Britannia Rule," sung mighty well :

The Tiger, "in English Roast Beef," did excel.

While others made all the wide valley to ring,

With "Nile's Glorious Battle," and "God Save the King."



In such good amusements the evening they past,  
Till Aurora appear'd to the eastward at last:  
When back to their homes, they return'd one and all,  
Well pleas'd with the sports at the Elephant's Ball.

W. B.

