THE CELEBRATED

BOHEMIAN PEASANT

POLKA DANCE,

COMPOSED FOR THE PIANO FORTE,

BY

M. CELLARIUS.

A new dance, bearing the above name, has lately been introduced into fashionable society in Paris, where it has created a *furor* equal to any great event that has agitated the French metropolis for the last half century, not excepting the "three glorious days." This dance, which much resembles the waltz in figure, is an original peasant dance of the Bohemians, and was first introduced into good society in Berlin. Baden-Baden, a celebrated watering place on the Rhine, initiated it into its *salons* last autumn; thence it travelled to Paris, where its merits and novelty have, in its mazy whirls, turned the heads of the French world of fashion. The following anecdote is going the round of the French *salons*, proving the power of this fascinating dance over ordinary maternal caution: The Duchess de B—— has a handsome and talented son, a youth of nineteen years of age, who desired to receive lessons in the Polka, of the celebrated *maitre de danse*, M. Cellarius; but, as he had at his house the *danseuses* of the opera, the cautious mother sent for the professor, requesting him to attend at her hotel, to give the required lesson to the young nobleman. M. Cellarius arrived in the evening, having two carriages with him, filled with dancers of the opera. The Duchess was in a state of extreme alarm; but the lesson commenced, and she saw her son dance first with a tall *blonde*, and then with a sparkling-eyed *brunette*; but she sate with her eyes intently fixed upon the youth and his partner all the while. Her anxieties were fully relieved by the assurance that her watchfulness had kept the young man's heart from the dangers threatening it. In the figure of the dance, the gentleman holds his partner by the hands; each lifts the right, and strikes the left heel with the right twice in succession, and then turns, as in the waltz. The Prussians have added much grace to the original Bohemian figure.

☞ The publisher is indebted for the above beautiful cut and history, together with the music, to the proprietors of "*The Picture Gallery of the New and Old World*," from which the whole is printed by their permission.

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From the collection of Richard Powers

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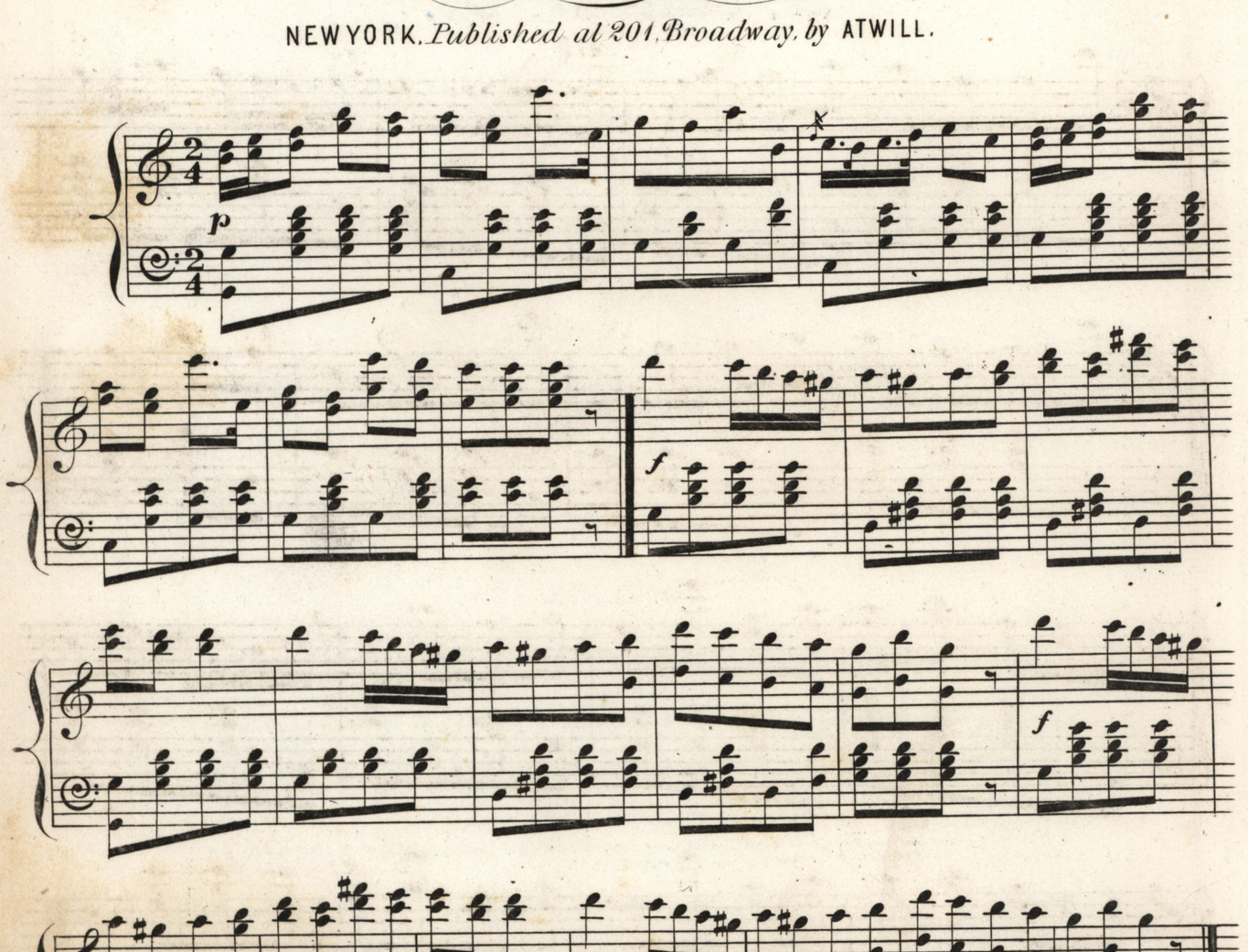

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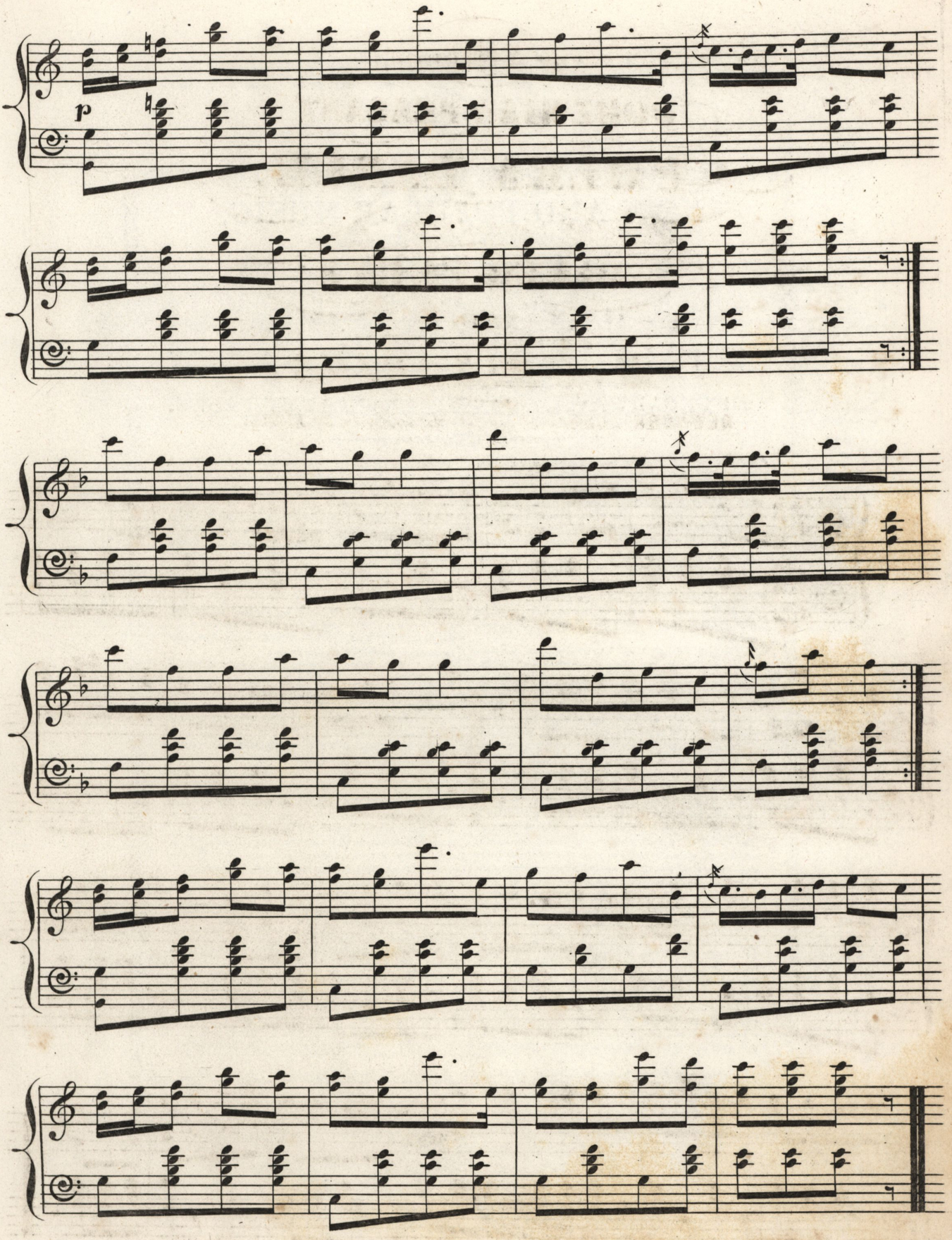
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