

PUNCH LIBRARY OF HUMOUR

Edited by J. A. HAMMERTON

✥ Designed to provide in a series of volumes, each complete in itself, the cream of our national humour, contributed by the masters of comic draughtsmanship and the leading wits of the age to "Punch," from its beginning in 1841 to the present day ✥ ✥ ✥ ✥

MR. PUNCH'S COUNTRY
LIFE





BROWN'S COUNTRY HOUSE.—*Brown (who takes a friend home to see his new purchase, and strikes a light to show it). "Confound it, the beastly thing's stopped!"*

MR. PUNCH'S COUNTRY LIFE

HUMOURS OF OUR RUSTICS

AS PICTURED BY

PHIL MAY, L. RAVEN-HILL,
CHARLES KEENE, GEORGE
DU MAURIER, BERNARD
PARTRIDGE, GUNNING
KING, LINLEY SAM-
BOURNE, G. D. ARMOUR,
C. E. BROCK, TOM BROWNE,
LEWIS BAUMER, WILL
OWEN, F. H. TOWNSEND,
G. H. JALLAND, G. E.
STAMPA, AND OTHERS



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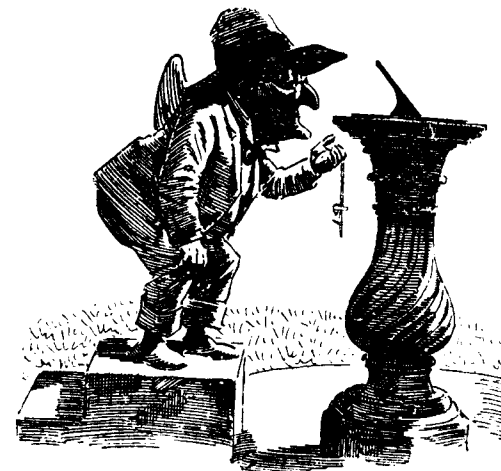


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THE PUNCH LIBRARY OF HUMOUR

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fully illustrated*

LIFE IN LONDON	RAILWAY BOOK
COUNTRY LIFE	AT THE SEASIDE
IN THE HIGHLANDS	MR. PUNCH AFLOAT
SCOTTISH HUMOUR	IN THE HUNTING FIELD
IRISH HUMOUR	MR. PUNCH ON TOUR
COCKNEY HUMOUR	WITH ROD AND GUN
IN SOCIETY	MR. PUNCH AWHEEL
AFTER DINNER STORIES	BOOK OF SPORTS
IN BOHEMIA	GOLF STORIES
AT THE PLAY	IN WIG AND GOWN
MR. PUNCH AT HOME	ON THE WARPATH
ON THE CONTINONG	BOOK OF LOVE
WITH THE CHILDREN	



ON RUSTIC HUMOUR

THAN the compilation of such a series of books as that which includes the present volume there could surely be no more engaging occupation for one who delights to look on the humorous side of life. The editor feels that if his readers derive as much enjoyment from the result of his labours as these labours have afforded him he may reasonably congratulate them! He has found himself many times over, as a book has taken shape from his gatherings in the treasure house of Mr. Punch, saying "This is the best of the lot"—and usually he has been right. There is none but is "the best!" There may be one that is not quite so good as the other twenty-four; but wild horses would not drag the name of that one from the editor. He feels, however, that in illustrating the humours of country life Mr. Punch has risen to the very summit of his genius. There is, of course, good reason for this, as it is notorious that the richest humour is to be found in the lowly

Mr. Punch's Country Life

walks of life, and flourishes chiefly in rustic places where folks are simple and character has been allowed to grow with something of that individuality we find in the untouched products of Nature. Your true humorist has always been in quick sympathy with the humblest of his fellow men. In the village worthy, in poor blundering Hodge, in the rough but kindly country doctor, the picturesque tramp, the droning country parson, the inept curate, the village glee singers, and such like familiar figures of rural England, the humorist has never failed to find that "source of innocent merriment" he might seek for vainly in more exalted ranks of our complex society. But he seeks among the country folk because his heart is there. The very best of Mr. Punch's humorists of the pencil, Charles Keene and Phil May in the past, and Mr. Raven-Hill and Mr. C. E. Brock to-day, have given more consideration to the country ways of life than to any other, and hence the exceeding richness of the present volume. It is thus in no sense a comic picture of Mr. Punch's notions of how the so-called country life is attempted by the townsman—one of the most notable features of our present social conditions—but is, in effect, a refreshing breath of genuine rustic humour, kindly, whole-hearted, and "racy of the soil."



MR. PUNCH'S COUNTRY LIFE



THE BEST SHARE IN
A FARM.—The plough-
share.

A PROVERB FRESH
FROM THE COUNTRY.—
No gooseberry without
a thorn.

THE CONNOISSEURS.
—Groom. "Whew's Beer
do you like best—this 'ere
hom'brewed o' Fisk's, or
that there ale they gives
yer at the White Ho's'?"

THE AGRICULTURAL
OUTLOOK
(From Dumb-Crambo Junior's
Point of View.)

Keeper (critically). "Well, o' the tew I prefers
this 'ere. That there o' Wum'oods's don't fare to
me to taste o' nawthun at all. Now this 'ere dew
taste o' the cask!!"

Mr. Punch's Country Life

THE LANGUAGE OF FRUITS

Apple	Discord.
Pear	Marriage.
Plum	Wealth.
Pine	Languishment.
Gooseberry	Simplicity.
Medlar	Interference.
Service	Assistance.
Elder-berry	Seniority.
Fig	Defiance.
Sloe	Tardiness.
Crab	Sour Temper.
Date	Chronology.
Hip	Applause.
Haw	Swells.
Plaintain	Growth.
Pomegranate	Seediness.
Prune	Retrenchment.

THE REAL LAND QUESTION.—How to make land *answer*.

PERFECT QUIET.—The still room.



LAND AND WATER.—Prospective Purchaser (arrived from town to see the locality as advertised some three weeks ago. He has not heard of the recent floods in this part of the country). "Look here. Are you selling this property by the yard or by the pint?"