

HANDY-VOLUME SERIES.

N^o. IV.

HAPPY THOUGHTS.

BY

F. C. BURNAND.

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PREFACE.

WHETHER it will be a Happy Thought to write a preface to any book, big or little, is a general question which will, I suppose, remain for ever undecided: the jury, composed partly of writers, partly of readers, being unable to agree upon a unanimous verdict. It seems to me that there is the same difficulty as to Apologies. Nor does it facilitate the matter to write a preface which shall be an apology, or to call that an apology which ought simply to be a preface. Let me put it down then as a Happy Thought to call these few lines in advance an Introduction. An Introduction! But, ladies and gentlemen, for we have met before, you require no introduction—Mr. *Punch* has already appeared as the Third party. We (not the editorial “we,” but you and I, my good readers, confidentially, if it so please you) will, then, consider the introduction over; we know one another, and I am inclined to be communicative. These Happy Thoughts were commenced by the side of a deli-