

**CHARCOAL SKETCHES;
OR, SCENES IN A
METROPOLIS**

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Charcoal sketches; or, Scenes in a metropolis by Joseph C. Neal

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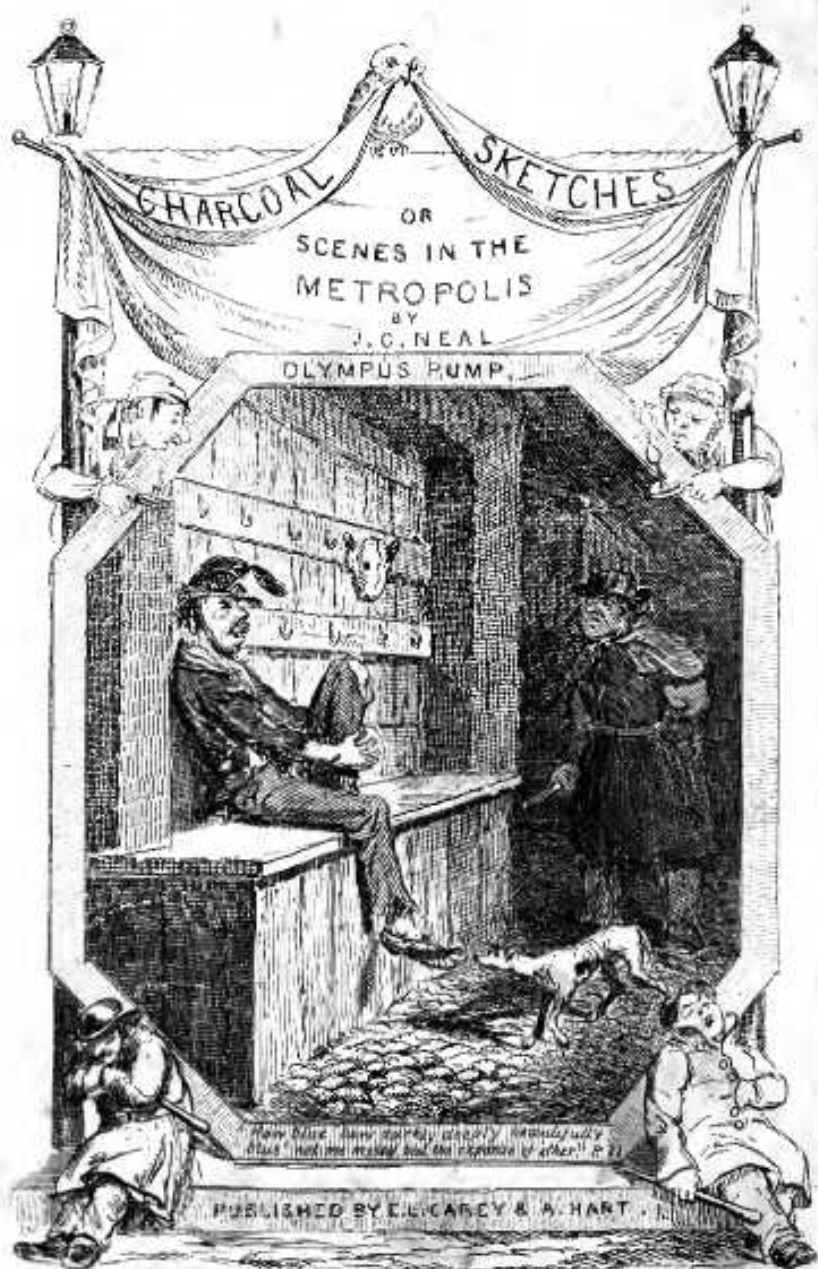
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JOSEPH C. NEAL

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BY

JOSEPH C. NEAL.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVID C. JOHNSTON.

THIRD EDITION.

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INTRODUCTION.

AMONG the publications of late years, we have Pencil Sketches, Crayon Sketches, Pen and Ink Drawings, Pencillings by the Way, and other works deriving their titles from the pursuits of the draughtsman. To avoid plagiarism, therefore, while following the fashion, this humble volume is presented bearing the unambitious name which heads its pages. There is certainly nothing very imposing about it; but charcoal has its uses and its capabilities; and the sketcher is content if he has been able even to approach any of the broad effects which can be dashed off by the aid of an article so homely.

A number of the trifles contained in the volume are familiar to newspaper readers, under the general title of "City Worthies." Although mere fancy portraits, farcical in their nature, and written for a temporary purpose, they were received with such unexpected favour as to induce their publication in the present form. The collection also comprises

other sketches which at least have novelty on their side, if "worthy" of no other credit.

But whether the letter-press be amusing or not, the illustrations by Johnston are replete with humour and graphic skill. They who yawn in the perusal of our pages, can therefore turn for refreshment to the comicalities of the etcher, and excuse the dulness perpetrated by the pen, in laughing over the quaint characteristics embodied by our American Cruikshank.

Trusting that some portion of the Charcoal Sketches may be well received, they are now committed to the reader. If he will not smile, the writer has laboured in vain; and if he frown, there is no remedy but submission. To avoid mistake, however, and to borrow a hint from the familiar story of the painter who was advised to place beneath his pictures the name of the object he wished to represent, it may not be amiss to state that these productions involve a design upon the risibles of the "pensive public." Should there be a failure in our deep intent, it adds another to the long list of cases wherein the will has been unable to achieve the deed.

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