

**THE GARRICK CLUB:
NOTICES OF ONE
HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIVE
OF ITS FORMER MEMBERS**

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The Garrick Club: Notices of One Hundred and Thirty-five of Its Former Members by R. H. Barham

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9

THE
GARRICK CLUB

NOTICES OF ONE HUNDRED
AND THIRTY-FIVE OF ITS
FORMER MEMBERS

BY
Richard Harris
THE REV. R. H. BARHAM
AUTHOR OF "THE INGOLDNEY LEGENDS"

WITH FACSIMILE OF THE ORIGINAL MS.

PRINTED PRIVATELY
1896

PREFACE

OF the OLD GARRICK CLUB established in 1831 Canon Barham was one of the original members, and for many years served on the Club Committee. The following lines, composed by the author of "The Ingoldsby Legends," and set as a glee by Mr. Hawes, were sung at the opening dinner:—

ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GARRICK CLUB.

Let poets of superior parts
Consign to deathless fame
The larceny of the Knave of Hearts,
Who spoiled his Royal Dame.
Alack! my timid Muse would quail
Before such thievish cubs,
But plumes a joyous wing to hail
Thy birth, fair QUEEN OF CLUBS!

PREFACE

The Garrick Club was established, mainly by the exertions of Mr. Frank Mills, with the design of constituting "a society in which actors and men of education and refinement might meet on equal and independent terms." The Club was intended to be an inexpensive one, and conversational rather than culinary excellence was the object to be aimed at. By the promoting "easy intercourse between artists and patrons, by raising the tone of criticism, by the collection of a library of reference, especially of scarce and valuable works on costume, and by the exercise of a salutary influence upon authors as well as managers and actors," it was hoped, as was expressed in the song commemorating the origin of the Club,

"To bring back the drama to glory again!"

This little work is faithfully printed from a manuscript volume, of which the illustration now

PREFACE

given as a frontispiece will convey an idea of the size and general appearance.

The MS. is well known to several admirers of "Tom Ingoldsby," and has formed the subject of notices in various journals. Descendants of Canon Barham are well aware of the existence of the MS., and had they desired to suppress the little volume as injurious to their father's reputation, would no doubt have kept it in their own possession, or destroyed it.

They have probably wished that some day it should find its way into print in some manner that should acquit them of indiscretion in regard to it, while affording to a certain number of bibliophiles a literary treat of no common sort.

Its formal publication in England might possibly be deemed an offence against good taste, although its Author has been deceased for half a

PREFACE

century, and hardly a single person referred to by Canon Barham can now be alive.

Permission has therefore been obtained from the owner of the MS. to reproduce it here, in an edition limited to 240 copies, which it is hoped will suffice to preserve, in public institutions and the libraries of literary men, a curious and valuable record of artistic life in London sixty years ago.

New York

January 1896

THE GARRICK CLUB

Abbott, William, Esq.

Of Covent Garden Theatre, a remarkably pleasant and good-humoured man. Married a sister of Mr. Kennets, of Dover, with whom he had some property, but lost the greater part of it in a theatrical speculation as manager of the Dublin Theatre. On his afterwards going to France, I, having met him previously at Lord W. Lennox's, gave him an introductory letter to Galignani, through whom he became manager of the English Company at Paris. He afterwards returned to England and took the Victoria Theatre. Failed, and again left England.

Abbott, George Washington, Esq.

Brother to the preceding.

THE GARRICK CLUB

Adolphus, John, Esq., F.S.A., Barrister

I first became acquainted with Mr. Adolphus at the Literary Fund Club, where he afterwards dined as my visitor and was elected a member on my nomination, but owing to ill-health he withdrew the following year; the same cause prevented his coming much to the Garrick, in the formation of which, however, he took a part, and originated the library, by proposing that every member should be requested to give his duplicate dramatic books. He was a man full of anecdote, but occasionally very rude, which made him, though a very eloquent, also a very unpopular member at the Bar, and unquestionably prevented his rising to the highest rank in his profession. He was the author of a continuation of Hume and Smollet, a book of indifferent pretensions. In early life Mr. Adolphus was a leading member of the Eccentrics, a debating society which met at the Sutherland Arms in May's Buildings. In 1837 I again became better acquainted with him in consequence of meeting him at Bentley's, for whom he was engaged to write the life of John Bannister.