MR. PUNCH'S BOOK OF LOVE: BEING THE HUMOURS OF COURTSHIP AND MATRIMON

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Mr. Punch's book of love: being the humours of courtship and matrimon by J. A. Hammerton

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J. A. HAMMERTON

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PUNCH LIBRARY OF HUMOUR

Edited by J. A. HAMMERION

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 BOOK OF LOVE





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BEING

THE HUMOURS OF COURT-SHIP AND MATRIMONY



WITH 150 ILLUSTRATIONS

BY

JOHN LEECH, CHARLES KEENE, GEORGE DU MAURIER, SIR JOHN TENNIEL, PHIL MAY, E.T. REED, L. RAVEN-HILL, GORDON BROWNE, TOM BROWNE, J. BERNARD PARTRIDGE, C. E. BROCK, REGINALD CLEAVER, CHARLES PEARS, A. S. BOYD, LEWIS BAUMER, DAVID WILSON, G. L. STAMPA, AND OTHERS

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ABOUT MATRIMONIAL JOKES, AND ONE IN PARTICULAR



F all Mr. Punch's jokes it might be fair to say that none has ever rivalled the popularity of "Advice to persons about to marry,—Don't!" unless it be that of the Scotsman who had been no more than a few hours in London, "when bang went saxpence!" Of the latter, more

in its place; bore, we are immediately concerned with "Punch's advice." The most preposterous stories are current among the uninformed as to the origin of some of Mr. Punch's favourite jests. Only recently we heard a gentleman telling a group of people in a hotel smoking. room that Mark Twain got a hundred pounds from Punch for writing that famous line, "I used your soap two years ago; since then I have used no other," familiar to every one by Mr. Harry Furniss's drawing of a disreputable tramp who is supposed to be writing the words quoted. As a matter of fact, the idea came to Mr. Furniss from an anonymous correspondent. Stories equally, if not more, absurd have been told as to the origin of "Punch's advice." which, thanks to the researches of Mr. Spielmann, we now know to have been the happy inspiration of Henry Mayhew, one of the founders of Punch. It was sixty-one years ago that Mayhew wrote the line, and how many millions of

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times it must have been quoted since one dare not guess!

It may be said to have struck the keynote of Mr. Punch's matrimonial policy, as an examination of his pages reveals him an incorrigible pessimist on the subject of marriage. He is very hard on the mother-in-law, but in all his life he has not made more than one or two jokes about the young wife's pastry, though he has made a good deal of fun about her general ignorance of domestic affairs. Nor has he spared the backelor or the old maid, and the designing widow has been an especial butt for his shafts.

It might be a good thing to pass a law prohibiting young and marriageable men from reading Punch, in order to save many of them from being discouraged and frightened out of the thought of marriage, and it would certainly be an incentive thereto—they would be tempted to become Benedicts if only that they might qualify for the removal of the prohibition!



" DRIVEN TO DESPERATION"

MR. PUNCH'S BOOK OF LOVE



Advice to Persons about to Marry.—Don't.

Advice to Persons who have "Fallen in Love,"— Fall out.

Encouraging.—George (who has just engaged himself to the Girl of his heart) breaks the happy news to his friend Jack (who has been married some time).—Jack. "Ah! well, my dear fellow, marriage is the best thing in the long run, and I can assure you that after a year or two a man gets used to it, and feels just as jolly as if he'd never married at all!"

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A DEFINITION.—Flirtation: a spoon with nothing in it.

Domestic.—It was a homely but pungent observation, on the part of a man of much experience and observation, that marriage without love was like tripe without onions.

ADAGE BY A YOUNG LADY.—Man proposes, but mamma disposes.

By a BEASTLY OLD BACHELOR.—A married man's fate (in brief).—Hooked, booked, cooked.

DESCRIBE A HOME-CIRCLE.—The wedding ring.

How to FIX THE HAPPY DAY.—Q. When's the best day for a wedding? A. Why, of course, "A Weddin's day."

DOMESTIC ECONOMY.

SAID Stiggins to his wife one day,
"We've nothing left to eat;
If things go on in this queer way,
We shan't make both ends meet."

The dame replied, in words discreet, "We're not so badly fed,

If we can make but one end meat,

And make the other bread."