

**THE DIDDLE. HODGE-
PODGE. ITEMS FROM JOE
MILLER. RAISING THE WIND:
A FARCE IN TWO ACTS**

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The diddler. Hodge-podge. Items from Joe Miller. Raising the wind: a farce in two acts by A. E. Senter & James Kenney

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A. E. SENTER & JAMES KENNEY

**THE DIDDLER. HODGE-
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A FARCE IN TWO ACTS**



Jeremy Diddler.

THE DIDDLEL.

BY A. E. SENTER.

"Never you fear that, mum. I wasn't born two hundred miles north of Lunnon, to be done by Mr. Diddler, I know."—*Kenny's Farce of "Raising the Wind."*

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DEDICATION.



To

THE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
MERCHANTS, BUSINESS MEN, MECHANICS AND LABORERS,
HUSBANDS AND WIVES,
CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES AND
PEOPLE OF THE WORLD,
GREETING :

To be posted and warned of the wiles of the DIBBLERS of our race, may save one from becoming their dupe, and, perhaps, from ruin.

"Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety."—Prov. xi. 14.

"A word to the wise is sufficient;" and to all others these pages are submitted.

By your humble servant,

A. E. S.

NOTICE.

WE would invite the attention of the reader to "KENNET'S FARCE OF RAISING THE WIND," at the end of this volume. He will then be, if he is not already, familiar with Mr. DIBBLER, and perhaps better appreciate the main feature of this work.

P R E F A C E .

DIDDLING CONSIDERED AS ONE OF THE EXACT SCIENCES.*

“Hey, diddle diddle,
The cat and the fiddle.”

SINCE the world began there have been two Jeremys. The one wrote a Jeremiad about usury, and was called Jeremy Bentham. He has been much admired by Mr. John Neal, and was a great man in a small way. The other gave name to the most important of the Exact Sciences, and was a great man in a great way—I may say, indeed, in the very greatest of ways.

Diddling—or the abstract idea conveyed by the verb to diddle—is sufficiently well understood. Yet the fact, the deed, the thing diddling, is somewhat difficult to define. We may get, however, at a tolerably distinct conception of the matter in hand, by defining—not the thing, diddling, in itself—but man, as an animal that diddles. Had Plato but hit upon this, he would have been spared the affront of the picked chicken.

Very pertinently it was demanded of Plato, why a picked chicken, which was clearly a “biped without feathers,” was not, according to his own definition, a man? But I am not to be bothered by any similar query. Man is an animal that diddles, and there is no animal that diddles but man. It will take an entire hen-coop of picked chickens to get over that.

* We are indebted to the unknown author of this preface and other articles from his pen. May his shadow never grow less, and never be diddled worse.

What constitutes the essence, the nare, the principle of diddling is, in fact, peculiar to the class of creatures that wear coats and pantaloons. A crow thieives; a fox cheats; a weasel out-wits; a man diddles. To diddle is his destiny. "Man was made to mourn," says the poet. But not so: he was made to diddle. This is his aim—his object—his end. And for this reason, when a man's diddled we say he's "done."

Diddling, rightly considered, is a compound, of which the ingredients are minuteness, interest, perseverance, ingenuity, audacity, nonchalance, originality, impertinence, and grin.

Minuteness: Your diddler is minute. His operations are upon a small scale. His business is retail, for cash, or approved paper at sight. Should he ever be tempted into magnificent speculation, he then, at once, loses his distinctive features, and becomes what we term "financier." This latter word conveys the diddling idea in every respect, except that of magnitude. A diddler may thus be regarded as a banker in petto—a "financial operation," as a diddle at Bobdignag. The one is to the other as Homer to "Flaccus"—as Mastodon to a mouse—as the tail of a comet to that of a pig.

Interest: Your diddler is guided by self-interest. He scorns to diddle for the mere sake of the diddle. He has an object in view—his pocket—and yours. He regards always the main chance. He looks to Number One. You are Number Two, and must look to yourself.

Perseverance: Your diddler perseveres. He is not readily discouraged. Should even the banks break, he cares nothing about it. He steadily pursues his end, and

Ut canis a carlo nunquam absterrebitur uncto,

so he never lets go off his game.