

COMIC PERIODICALS.

Notes upon the Comic Literature of England—How the "Funny" Journals Lived and Died.

An exceedingly interesting and curious book, says the London Bookster, might be written on the influence and scope of comic literature.

Tracing it from the "Clouds" of Aristophanes, and the satirical and burlesque of the Roman satirists, the author traces the history of the comic literature of the first French revolution, the "Gazettes" of the same period, the "Pindarics" of Walcott, and the "Joe Millerisms" of the last century.

It is impossible to give anything like a complete list of the facetious and satirical newspapers and magazines that have been published in England during the present century.

Of the earliest specimens of what may be called "Punch" periodicals, that is, semi-weekly papers, combining the facetious with the political or satirical, and generally illustrated with engravings more or less comic in their nature, we may mention the "Scourge" or "Monthly Expositor."

The "Scourge" or "Monthly Expositor"—a magazine of politics and satire—was published by W. N. Jones, of Newgate street, in 1811, and went through seven volumes, each number being illustrated by a highly-colored political cartoon.

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and Courier des Dames. It was published only for a few months of 1840, and is noticeable principally as the medium through which John Leech, the artist, made the acquaintance of the public.

All these comic periodicals were, however, destined to be outshone by one of a higher class, both as regards literature and illustrations.

On the 17th of July, 1841, appeared the first number of "Punch, or the London Observer." Several stories have been told of the origin of this famous publication, but the "Bookster" believes the truth to be that it was designed by Mr. Mark Lemon, then a tavern-keeper in Wyndham street, Strand, and that his earliest coadjutors were Gilbert Beckett, proprietor and editor of the recently defunct "Figaro in London," Henry Mayhew, then a young and active journalist, and Harry Gratian, husband of the public singer.

Afterwards, numerous clever writers—Hood, Thackeray, Jerrold, Peacock, Leigh, Albert Smith, Artemus Ward, and others—contributed to its pages. The notion that the literary "Punch" was a compound of sweet and bitter things, rather than a pictorial representation of the popular spirit, seems generally to have been present to the minds of its writers.

A rather cruel joke with reference to the constituent elements of "Punch" is attributed to Mr. Dion Boucicault, the dramatist, who wrote occasional scraps in the earlier numbers. "Punch," he is said to have explained to an American audience, "was originally written by four clever but comparatively unknown names: Gilbert Beckett provided the spirit, Henry Mayhew the sugar, Douglas Jerrold the acid, and Mark Lemon the spoon!" This is not quite accurate, as Jerrold did not write for "Punch" till its eighth or ninth number.

If imitation be the highest compliment that can be paid to a writer, certainly "Punch" has been complimented in the most superlative manner; for it has had many imitators, but few rivals. Among these we may mention the "Sport," a grandiose and witty satire, and amusement, edited by Mr. Robert Keup Philip, the originator of the "Farney Friend" (which, by the way, died out last month). "Diogenes" was principally illustrated by Mr. Watts Phillips, the dramatist, then a draughtsman and engraver on wood; and among its literary contributors were the Brothers Brough, Augustus French, and other less known comic and satirical writers.

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FIRE AND BURGLAR PROOF SAFES. LILLIE'S CHILLED IRON SAFES. Though Scorched, Not Dead. A FIRE-PROOF TEST TO BE MADE BETWEEN LILLIE'S CHILLED IRON SAFE AND EVANS & WATSON'S, WITH THE BOSTON STREAM PATENT.

Whereas, Evans & Watson, Safe-makers, in the city of Philadelphia, did combine and conspire with a certain Boston company to cheat, deceive, and humbug the people of this city and vicinity with a certain fixture which they called Fire-proof and Burglar-proof, and whereas they did obtain the aid and countenance of certain officers and gentlemen connected with the Fair Grounds, to assist in said combination and conspiracy...

A Burglar-Proof Test Between Lillie's and all Competitors. The Above Tests to be Made by Daylight, and to be Fair and Bona Fide.

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Table with columns: Description of assets, Amount, and Date. Includes items like United States 5 Per Cent. Loan, 1871, and various stocks and bonds.

Assets of the Company. November 1, 1867. \$115,000.00. United States 5 Per Cent. Loan, 1871, \$120,000.00. United States 5 Per Cent. Loan, 1872, \$200,000.00. United States 7 1/2 Per Cent. Loan, Treasury Note, \$11,000.00.

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INSURANCE COMPANIES. BROOKLYN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK, MUTUAL. POLICIES NON-FORFEITABLE. Thirty days grace given in payment of Premiums. No extra charge for residence or travel in any portion of the world.

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Agents and Collectors wanted in all the cities and towns in Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey. E. B. COLTON, GENERAL AGENT.

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LACEY, MEEKER & CO., THE UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS OF THE NEW CHESNUT STREET (NO. 1216). SADDLERY, HARNESS, AND HORSE-FURNISHING GOODS HOUSE OF LACEY, MEEKER & CO., Is attributable to the following facts: They are very attentive to the wants of their customers. They are satisfied with a fair business profit. They sell goods only on their own merits. They guarantee every strap in all harness they sell over \$40, the fault of the purchaser only who does not get what he is guaranteed and paid for.