

CHESTNUTS AND SMALL BEER

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649163021

Chestnuts and small beer by H. J. Jennings

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

H. J. JENNINGS

**CHESTNUTS AND
SMALL BEER**

LE
J5445ch

CHESTNUTS AND SMALL BEER

BY
H. J. JENNINGS

AUTHOR OF "CURIOSITIES OF CRITICISM," "CARDINAL NEWMAN, THE STORY
OF HIS LIFE," "LORD TENNYSON, A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH," "OUR
MONKS AND HOW TO BEAUTIFY THEM," AND "THE
COMING ECONOMIC CRISIS"

492271

26.5.49

NEW YORK
E. P. DUTTON & COMPANY

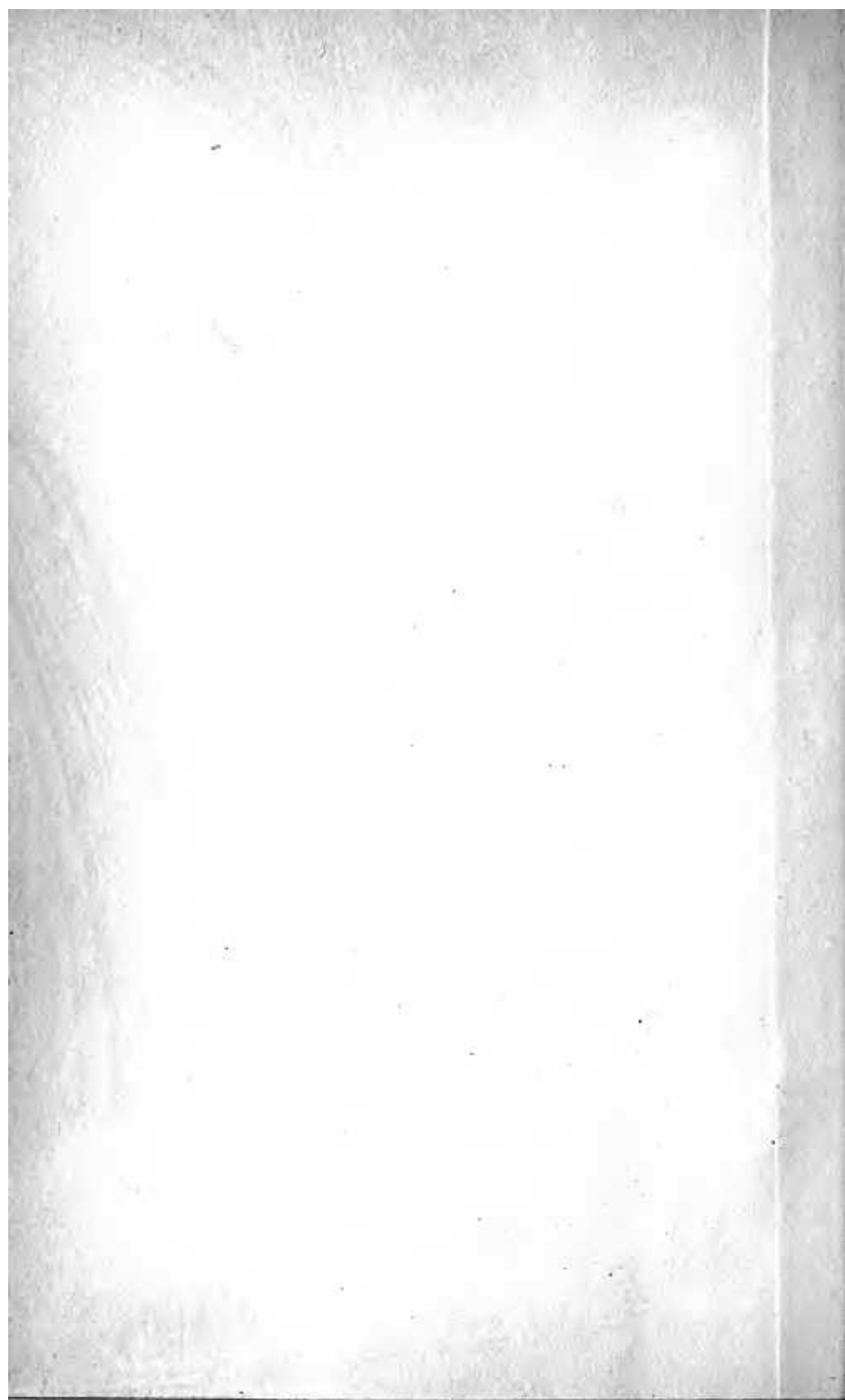
1921

Printed in Great Britain.

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF
SHEFFIELD
1967

TO
SIR SAMUEL WARING, BART.
THIS VOLUME IS INSCRIBED
IN ADMIRATION OF HIS QUALITY AS A MAN
AND IN WARM RECOGNITION OF HIS
FIDELITY AS A FRIEND
BY THE AUTHOR

1920



CONTENTS

	PAGE
CHAPTER I	
An invitation and an apology—Fishing for a career—Amateur acting—A trial on the stage—I appear as a statue—Mrs. Kendal's early days—The Bristol stock company—A theatrical oddity—"Oirish" v. Scotch .	I
CHAPTER II	
An impulsive prompter—I go "on tour"—A rag-fair <i>Cassio</i> —I upset the management—A lecturing experiment—Cricketing recollections—A stage fluke . . .	13
CHAPTER III	
A lucky inspiration and a journalistic beginning—Reporters fifty years ago—A Church Congress scene—Playing at monks—"Strictly in confidence"—The three weird sisters are shocked—An interview with Dickens—Our "literary" sub.—Unusual incident at a murder trial	22
CHAPTER IV	
Reporting weddings—Convivial lapses—The Mayor's '34 port—Henry Vincent the ex-Chartist—J. B. Gough—I sign the pledge and break it—Freaks on show—Chronicling a prize-fight	34
CHAPTER V	
Phenomenal feeding—Dr. Livingstone—Public executions—Comedy after tragedy—A chat with the hangman—The Exeter bungle—The Rev. W. M. Punshon's oratory—A dramatic speech by a North American Indian .	44
CHAPTER VI	
Past politics in Bristol—The hustings collapse—Some famous barristers—The Road murder—Trial of Constance Kent—An impressive death sentence—Theatrical and musical criticism—Sims Reeves and his ailments—His little joke	56

CONTENTS

	PAGE
CHAPTER VII	
Sanitary investigations—A great theatre disaster—"On the busk"—The Histrionic Club—A ruined career—A Birmingham editorship—The defects of a Bristol training	69
CHAPTER VIII	
A bold venture—The "Daily Liar"—The Prince of Wales's illness—An impudent proposal—I meet Arthur Orton, the Tichborne claimant—Dr. Kenealy's indiscretions—The Odium Politicum—The Birmingham Caucus—Mr. Schnadhorst	79
CHAPTER IX	
"Joe" Chamberlain—A libel action—Differences with a pugilist—John Bright—Express reporting—My dull reporter—Bright thanks the <i>Mail</i> —Stories of the People's Tribune—How a pun was received—A duplicated newspaper article	89
CHAPTER X	
Republicanism in theory and practice—An escapade with Lord Aylesford—Mr. Chamberlain on the remedy for local distress—The G.O.M.—The lost hat—Sir Charles Dilke's hot reception	102
CHAPTER XI	
The universal "secondar"—The notorious Aston Riots—Politics and friendship—The Home Rule split—A Masonic experience—"Extremely probable"—Lord Hartington's delicacy	113
CHAPTER XII	
Early contributors of the <i>Mail</i> —Mixed theology—The Birmingham Onion Fair—Stealing a march on a competitor—Working up an "exclusive"—The quiet drunkards—Fussy social reformers	123
CHAPTER XIII	
Funeral reform—The Rational Sunday—Newspaper errata—Cockfighting and Cricket—The editor publicly prayed for	134

CONTENTS

	PAGE
CHAPTER XIV	
Sir M. Costa's misadventure—Joseph Maas—His premature death—The Bingley Hall cattle show—A great disaster—Grim prophecies fulfilled—A spiritualist's exposure	143
CHAPTER XV	
Another prophet of evil tidings—A "lady" swindler—Electric sugar—Sala's wine criticism—The "Great Cryptogram"—Bret Harte—An experiment in vegetarianism	152
CHAPTER XVI	
Local literary celebrities—Cardinal Newman's career—His skill in dialectics—Why I wrote a sketch of his life—Tennyson and his literary duel with Bulwer Lytton—Browning calls me a donkey	165
CHAPTER XVII	
Literary societies in Birmingham—A Shakespearean bill of fare—Famous Birmingham journalists—"A Bad Lot"—The Owls' Club—Some unfulfilled hopes	175
CHAPTER XVIII	
A sad downfall—The dynamite discovery—Actors and actresses—Sothorn's champion—Moral condemnation fills the theatre—A laconic criticism—An indignant manager flourishes a horsewhip	183
CHAPTER XIX	
A doleful supper-party—A great theatrical event—Charles Calvert—His breakdown on the stage—The memorial benefit at Manchester—Helen Faucit's <i>Rosalind</i> —Centenary of the Birmingham Theatre Royal	193
CHAPTER XX	
Rival archdeacons—A laureate's fee—Music-hall celebrities—Confessions of an autograph hunter—A change of editorship—Lord Randolph Churchill—Belated regrets	201
CHAPTER XXI	
A daring enterprise—What are Milwaukees?—City scandals—Frequenters of the Café Royal—Pilotelle and Oscar Wilde—Toole's ruined plot	210