

# **MR. PUNCH AT THE SEASIDE**

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Mr. Punch at the seaside by J. A. Hammerton

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**J. A. HAMMERTON**

# **MR. PUNCH AT THE SEASIDE**



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MR. PUNCH AT THE SEASIDE





"BY THE SILVER SEA"

This is *not* Jones's dog.

# MR. PUNCH AT THE SEASIDE

AS PICTURED BY

CHARLES KEENE, JOHN  
LEECH, GEORGE DU  
MAURIER, PHIL MAY,  
L. RAVEN-HILL, J. BER-  
NARD PARTRIDGE,  
GORDON BROWNE, E. T.  
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IN WIG AND GOWN  
ON THE WARPATH  
BOOK OF LOVE  
WITH THE CHILDREN





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# EDITOR'S NOTE



ONE of the leading characteristics of the nineteenth century was the tremendous change effected in the social life of Great Britain by the development of cheap railway travel. The annual holiday at the seaside speedily became as inevitable a part of the year's pro-

gress as the milkman's morning call is of the day's routine. What at first had been a rare and memorable event in a lifetime developed into a habit, to which, with our British love for conventions, all of us conform.

Whether or not our French critics are justified in saying that we Britishers take our pleasures sadly, these pages from the seaside chronicles of Mr. Punch will bear witness, and while at times they may seem to support the case of our critics, at others the evidence is eloquent against them. This at least is certain, that whatever the temperament of the British as displayed during the holiday season at our popular resorts, the point of view of our national jester, Mr. Punch, is unfailingly humorous, and such sadness as some of our countrymen may bring to their pleasures is but food for the mirth of merry Mr. Punch, who, we

## **Mr. Punch at the Seaside**

are persuaded, stands for the sum total of John Bull's good humour in his outlook on the life of his countrymen.

As the real abstract and brief chronicler of our time, Mr. Punch has mirrored in little the social history of the last sixty-five years, and apart from the genuine entertainment which this book presents, it is scarcely less instructive as a pictorial history of British manners during this period. One may here follow in the vivid sketches of the master-draughtsmen of the age the ceaseless and bewildering changes of fashion—the passing of the crinoline, the coming and going of the bustle, the chignon, and similar vanities, and the evolution of the present-day styles of dress both of men and women.

It is also curious to notice how little seaside customs, amusements, troubles and delights, have varied in the last half-century. Landladies are at the end what they were at the beginning; the same old type of bathing-machine is still in use; our forefathers and their womenfolk in the days when Mr. Punch was young behaved themselves by "the silver sea" just as their children's children do to-day. Nothing has changed, except that the most select of seaside places is no longer so select as it was in the pre-railway days, and that the wealthier classes, preferring the attractions of Continental resorts, are less in evidence at our own watering-places.

The motto of this little work, as of all those in the series to which it belongs, is "Our true intent is all for your delight," but if the book carry with it some measure of instruction, we trust that may not be the less to its credit.

## MR. PUNCH AT THE SEASIDE



A FASHIONABLE  
WATERING PLACE

*Mrs. Dorset* (of "*Dorset's Sugar and Butter Stores*," Mile End Road). "Why on earth can't we go to a more *dressy* place than this, 'Enery? I'm sick of this dreary 'ole, year after year. It's nothing but sand and water, sand and water!"

*Mr. Dorset*. "If it wasn't for sand and water, you wouldn't get no 'olerday."

SEASIDE MEM.—The Society recently started to abolish Tied-houses will not include Bathing Machines within the scope of its operations.