

**THE KNIGHT OF THE
MAYPOLE, A COMEDY
IN FOUR ACTS**

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The knight of the maypole, a comedy in four acts by John Davidson

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JOHN DAVIDSON

**THE KNIGHT OF THE
MAYPOLE, A COMEDY
IN FOUR ACTS**

THE KNIGHT OF THE MAYPOLE

A COMEDY IN FOUR ACTS

BY

JOHN DAVIDSON

"Lord of May, and Lord of May again."
An Unhistorical Pastoral.—1877

LONDON
GRANT RICHARDS
48, LEICESTER SQUARE
1903

"When your heart is heavy you should think of something wholly delightful; of the Nebular Hypothesis, for example, or of a Maypole."—TOBELLET'S *Opinions*.

"Let the May-queen reign."

Fleet Street Eclogues.

This play was written in 1900, and after various adventures is now published, twenty-five years having come and gone since, in "An Unhistorical Pastoral," I first wrote of the Maypole.

J. D.

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PERSONS

CHARLES II.	King of England.
SIR HENRY BEAUMONT . . .	} Courtiers.
SIR CHARLES ALDRED . . .	
SIR GILBERT HAMILTON . .	
ANTHONY ASHE, of Sutton- Highcroft	} Justice of the Peace.
GABRIEL ASHE	Anthony's cousin.
EUSEBY TRENCHARD . . .	Anthony's man.
CLEMENT DORMER	Mistress Dormer's son.
ISAIAH MYRTLE	A Roundhead.
JEREMY STRUTT	Mistress Dormer's cousin.
HUMPHREY	A ploughboy.
MESSENT	} Country Constables.
MOWLEM	
AGNES GREY	{ Daughter of the last Keeper of Richmond Court Palace.
MISTRESS DORMER	A wealthy widow of Richmond.
JUDITH RUMBOLD	Mistress Dormer's niece.
GRACE MYRTLE	Isaiah's daughter.
JANE GOSLING	A milkmaid.

Courtiers, Mayers, Morris-dancers, Roundheads, Two Pipers,
a Horn-player, and a Taborer.

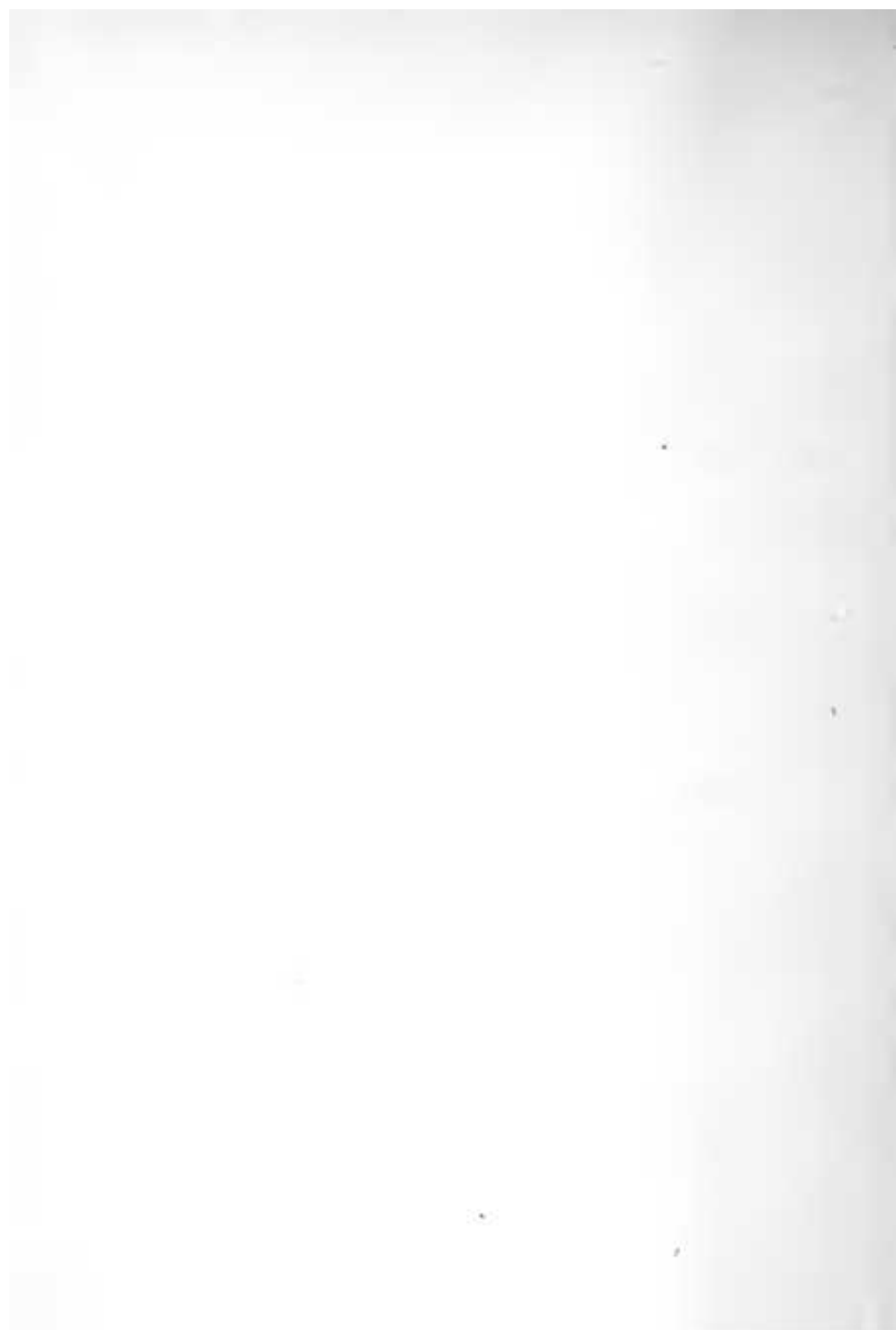


SCENE.—ACT I. *The Hall of a Manor-house, near Richmond.*

ACTS II and III. *Richmond Green.*

ACT IV. *The King's Apartments, Richmond Court
Palace.*

TIME.—1661. *The First Act takes place on the 30th of April;
the remainder on the 1st of May.*



THE KNIGHT OF THE MAYPOLE

ACT I

SCENE.—*The Hall of the Manor-house of Sutton-Highcroft, Richmond, lofty and spacious. Tudor and early Stuart portraits, arms and trophies of the chase on the walls. In the centre a long table of carved oak, upon which are law-books, papers, silver standish and quills. At the head of the table a high-backed, oaken chair. Other chairs placed conveniently.*

A deep bay-window of stained glass opens upon a lawn at the back.

On the right is a high, carved mantelpiece: fire-dogs in the chimney. On the left a carved doorway corresponding with the mantelpiece. A small door on the right below the fireplace.

When the curtain rises ANTHONY ASHE is discovered reading the Intelligencer in his chair at the top of the table, and EUSEBY TRENCHARD near the foot of the table cutting a quill.

Anthony.

NO news, Euseby? You have marked nothing.
Euseby. There is nothing deserving your worship's regard.