

**YANKEE NOTIONS:
A MEDLEY**

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Yankee notions: a medley by Timo. Titterwell & D. C. Johnston

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TIMO. TITTERWELL & D. C. JOHNSTON

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"Thomas Birtlock was a bitter man."

YANKEE NOTIONS.

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A MEDLEY.

BY TIMO. TITTERWELL, ESQ. *Author*

Seventh Edition

Just a bit of cold beef, a slice of bread and ale. Walk in gentlemen.—OLD FLAY.

SECOND EDITION.

WITH

ILLUSTRATIONS BY D. C. JOHNSTON.



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P R E F A C E .

PREFACES, gentle reader, are commonly tiresome things : the less therefore I say in this part, the better. But, a preface there must be to my book, as the neglect of such an introductory salutation would be like not making a bow on going into company : and as Don Quixote remarks, “there is nothing cheaper than civility.”

I have written this book for many reasons, every one of which you may be sure of, in five minutes guessing. As to the character of it, I may as well inform the reader in the very outset, that it is not designed to be *popular*, or consonant to the reigning taste of our reading and

writing community. Most of the books now written among us, exhort people to wear long faces, save their money, cramp their souls, starve their bodies, besot their intellects, and be most dismally wise in all sorts of cool, calculating ways. Now the reader will find nothing of this sort in the following work ; therefore his best way will be to throw it aside at once, in case he expects me to follow in the track of our great American authors. I frankly confess that I lack both the ambition and the ability to imitate the profound philosophy of "Moral Hydrostatics," the sentimental beauties of "Kitty Spriggins," and the moral sublimity of "My Mother's Pewter Porringer."

No, gentle reader, I hold with old King Solomon, that if there be a time to weep, there is also a time to laugh ; and in my opinion this is the very time. I shall do

my best to make you merry ; laugh therefore while you may. The worst thing for a man's health is melancholy, but a good joke helps digestion and promotes longevity. A good joke, like a good sherris sack, hath a twofold operation. It ascends me into the brain ; dries me there all the foolish and dull and crudy vapors which environ it ; makes it apprehensive, quick, forgetive, full of nimble, fiery, delectable shapes, which acting sily and sympathetically upon the corners of the mouth, produce hearty, jovial, honest laughter. The other property of your excellent joke is, the warming of the blood, which before, cold and settled, left the face long, the heart lumpish, the looks dumpish, and the whole inward and outward man most dismally frumpish ;—all which are the badge of pusillanimity, cynical sourness, and pseudo-sapient self-conceit.

But the joke warms it, and makes it course from the inwards to the parts extreme, mollify the heart, tickle the ribs, expand the pericardium, inspirit the lungs, light up the bosom, clear the œsophagus, lubricate the tongue, inspire the brain, sublimate the cerebellum, titillate the skull-bone, vivify the spinal marrow and quicken the whole nervous system : so that man being jolly, becometh perforce, generous, forgiving, liberal, communicative, frank, inquisitive, sympathetic, humane and pious : and doeth noble deeds without end. And thus goodness, mercy, munificence, public spirit, patriotism, and the whole host of social virtues and christian charities come of joking. If I had a thousand sons, the first human principle I would teach them, should be to forswear doleful dumps and addict themselves to fun.