

**GUTTA PERCHA  
WILLIE, THE  
WORKING GENIUS**

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Gutta Percha Willie, the Working Genius by George Mac Donald & Arthur Hughes

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**GEORGE MAC DONALD & ARTHUR HUGHES**

**GUTTA PERCHA  
WILLIE, THE  
WORKING GENIUS**





WILLIE'S HORSE-SHOING FORGE.

# GUTTA PERCHA WILLIE

*THE WORKING GENIUS*

BY

GEORGE MAC DONALD

AUTHOR OF "DAVID ELGINBROD," ETC.

*ILLUSTRATIONS BY ARTHUR HUGHES*

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## CONTENTS.

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CHAP.	PAGE
I. WHO HE WAS AND WHERE HE WAS . . . . .	1
II. WILLIE'S EDUCATION . . . . .	7
III. HE IS TURNED INTO SOMETHING HE NEVER WAS BEFORE . . . . .	19
IV. HE SERVES AN APPRENTICESHIP . . . . .	28
V. HE GOES TO LEARN A TRADE . . . . .	37
VI. HOW WILLIE LEARNED TO READ BEFORE HE KNEW HIS LETTERS . . . . .	56
VII. SOME THINGS THAT CAME OF WILLIE'S GOING TO SCHOOL . . . . .	65
VIII. WILLIE DIGS AND FINDS WHAT HE DID NOT EXPECT . . . . .	76
IX. A MARVEL . . . . .	86
X. A NEW ALARUM . . . . .	96
XI. SOME OF THE SIGHTS WILLIE SAW . . . . .	107
XII. A NEW SCHEME . . . . .	115
XIII. WILLIE'S NEST IN THE RUINS . . . . .	122



CHAP.	PAGE
XIV. WILLIE'S GRANDMOTHER . . . . .	130
XV. HYDRAULICS . . . . .	137
XVI. HECTOR HINTS AT A DISCOVERY . . . . .	146
XVII. HOW WILLIE WENT ON . . . . .	149
XVIII. WILLIE'S TALK WITH HIS GRANDMOTHER . . . . .	160
XIX. A TALK WITH MR SHEPHERD . . . . .	164
XX. HOW WILLIE DID HIS BEST TO MAKE A BIRD OF AGNES . . . . .	176
XXI. HOW AGNES LIKED BEING A BIRD . . . . .	186
XXII. WILLIE'S PLANS BUD . . . . .	196
XXIII. WILLIE'S PLANS BLOSSOM . . . . .	203
XXIV. WILLIE'S PLANS BEAR FRUIT . . . . .	207

## ILLUSTRATIONS.

WILLIE'S HORSE-SHOING FORGE . . . . .	<i>Frontispiece.</i>
MRS WILSON'S STORIES . . . . .	<i>Page 10</i>
WILLIE WITH THE BABY . . . . .	34
WILLIE TAKEN TO SEE A WATER WHEEL . . . . .	72
WILLIE TOLD HIS FATHER ALL ABOUT IT . . . . .	106
WILLIE'S GRANDMOTHER ARRIVES . . . . .	130
"THAT 'S WILLIE AGAIN " . . . . .	143
WILLIE MAKES A BIRD OF AGNES . . . . .	190
WILLIE'S DREAM . . . . .	202

THE HISTORY OF  
GUTTA-PERCHA WILLIE.



CHAPTER I.

*WHO HE WAS AND WHERE HE WAS.*

WHEN he had been at school for about three weeks, the boys called him Six-fingered Jack; but his real name was Willie, for his father and mother gave it him—not William, but Willie, after a brother of his father, who died young, and had always been called Willie. His name in full was Willie Macmichael. It was generally pronounced Macmickle, which was, by a learned anthropologist, for certain reasons about to appear in this history, supposed to have been the original form of the name, dignified, in the course of time into Macmichael. It was his own father, however, who gave him the name of Gutta-Percha Willie, the reason of which will also show itself by and by.

A

Mr Macmichael was a country doctor, living in a small village in a thinly-peopled country; the first result of which was that he had very hard work, for he had often to ride many miles to see a patient, and that not unfrequently in the middle of the night; and the second that, for this hard work, he had very little pay, for a thinly-peopled country is generally a poor country, and those who live in it are poor also, and cannot spend much even upon their health. But the doctor not only preferred a country life, although he would have been glad to have richer patients, and within less distances of each other, but he would say to any one who expressed surprise that, with his reputation, he should remain where he was—"What's to become of my little flock if I go away, for there are very few doctors of my experience who would feel inclined to come and undertake my work. I know every man, woman, and child in the whole country-side, and that makes all the difference." You see, therefore, that he was a good kind-hearted man, and loved his work, for the sake of those whom he helped by it, better than the money he received for it.

Their home was necessarily a very humble one—a neat little cottage in the village of Priory Leas—almost the one pretty spot thereabout. It lay in a valley in the midst of hills, which did not look high, because they rose with a gentle slope, and