

**LIFE AND HISTORY OF BETTY BOLAINÉ,
(LATE OF CANTERBURY,) A WELL
KNOWN CHARACTER FOR PARSIMONY
AND VICE, SCARCELY EQUALLED IN THE
ANNALS OF AVARICE AND DEPRAVITY;
INTERSPERSED WITH ORIGINAL POETRY**

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Life and History of Betty Bolaine, (late of Canterbury,) a Well Known Character for Parsimony and Vice, Scarcely Equalled in the Annals of Avarice and Depravity; Interspersed With Original Poetry by E. Burgess

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E. BURGESS

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Betty Bolaine?
Late of
Canterbury

LIFE AND HISTORY
OF
BETTY BOLAINÉ,

(Late of Canterbury.)

A WELL KNOWN CHARACTER

FOR

PARSIMONY AND VICE,

Scarcely equalled in the

ANNALS OF AVARICE AND DEPRAVITY;

INTERSPERSED WITH

ORIGINAL POETRY.

Elizabeth Bolaine
"An immoderate desire after riches is a poison lodged in the soul; it contaminates and destroys every thing that was good in it; no sooner taketh root there, than all virtue, all honesty, all natural affection, fly before the face of it."

"Where covetousness reigneth, know that the soul is poor."

(Economy of Human Life.)

SECOND EDITION.

CANTERBURY:

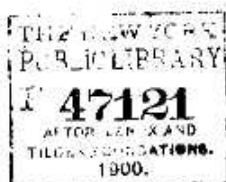
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1852.

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Entered at Stationers' Hall.

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P R E F A C E.

THE LIFE of **BETTY BOLAINÉ** is presented as a warning to characters inclined to fall into extremes;—extremes of any nature being detrimental to our own comfort, and the interests of society. Nor will those who suffer themselves to be wholly governed by a darling inclination, hesitate at the commission of any crime their situation gives them an opportunity of perpetrating, provided it be subservient to their guiding principles.

The Anecdotes in the Narrative are drawn from real facts, however inhuman, improbable, and inconsistent they may appear.

LIFE AND HISTORY
OF
BETTY BOLAINÉ.

ELIZABETH Bolaine (the subject of the subsequent sheets), was daughter of a Mr. Noah Bolaine, an apothecary of eminence, at Canterbury; but neither his respectable example, nor a well conducted education, were sufficient to preserve her from the horrors attending avarice, and its attendant vices: each separate one sufficient for the pest of society.—She became at the death of her father, mistress of fifteen hundred pounds, which in a few years she augmented incredibly. Young, handsome, of uncommon talents, of good connections, and possessing a manner naturally pleasing, heightened by artifice, it is not wonderful she met with admirers; though so great a slattern, and so great a niggard in her dress as to have become proverbial.

As an instance of her latter failing, the truth of the following anecdote may be depended on:—At an assembly at Canterbury, (when the hoop petticoat was general) the ladies present complaining of the inconvenience of the fashion, decided on abolishing it: when Miss B.—, after a considerable hesitation, laying aside her majestic appearance, discovered to her astonished associates, that that

appearance had been produced—not by a regular hoop petticoat, but by a few strips of cane, confined by common string, and covered by the old blue apron of her late father.

Corrupted in sentiment, as abject in spirit, she ever evinced, that

“Tho’ on pleasure she was bent,

“ She had a frugal mind.”

constantly requiring her suitors to defray the expences of her different entertainments, and *boasting* of the number of *treats*, as she styled them, she was in the habit of receiving.—As her first conquest of *note* was productive of many such treats, it merits being recorded.

By an elegant style of dancing, and in the borrowed plumes of a Mrs. De-la-p—t (at whose house she was visitor), she captivated at a Lord Mayor’s ball, the heart of Captain E—p—st—; who, yielding to the impulse of his wishes, hastily offered her marriage. But the wary nymph averse to any engagement that might shackle her fortune and liberty, kept him still at bay, dallying with his passion, but accepting his presents. Whether her fortune was his principal aim, or whether he was really seduced by her allurements, I am not capable of determining; but certain it is, that finding entreaties in vain to bring this affair to an issue, he actually persuaded his brother to assist him in enticing her into a coach; and ordering the man to drive to the Fleet, very gravely and firmly told her, she must there be united to him in marriage.* Miss B.—little expecting so decisive an attack, instantly felt alarm, and indignantly answered in the negative, insisting on being immediately driven home; but her capturer replied he would no longer be trifled with; that since she was not averse to its performance at a distant period, she must consent to its taking place immediately. But the poor lady knowing her own private sentiments, and finding herself at her last resource, became so vehement and loud, that in the Strand she was rescued by the passers by: and Captain E—, not more mortified than astonished at her inconsistencies, made her his farewell bow and sheered off.—Perhaps the eclat of this adven-

* Marriages were formerly considered legal so performed.

ture might have assisted in procuring a second suitor, not more correct in his notions of female propriety than had been her first.

A Mr. S——d of Faversham was then her second admirer, and it was said he offered to keep a coach and four; but Miss B——, conscious that promises were not binding, wisely hesitated to resign her fortune, and right of augmenting it her own method, on such unstable dependence. To this gentleman, succeeded Mr. J—ph G—l—d of Canterbury, and by some lucky stroke, not only won her affections, but persuaded her to yield him a bond: whereby she forfeited two hundred pounds, should any caprice of her's prevent the destined union. We may justly conclude from the tenor of her character on every former as future occasion, she must have been greatly pleased with this man, ere such a proof of confidence in the stability of her inclinations had been procured. Whatever might have been the reality of her affections, she certainly tried her numerous arts to persuade him she was captivated; and supposing jealousy a necessary appendage to affection, she took occasion to take exception at an intention he made known to her of joining an assembly, given by a General then stationed in Canterbury, where she did not choose appearing since her hoop petticoat mortification: requesting as proof of love, his company that evening. In vain did he plead the necessity of attending his engagements—the more he argued, the more was she vociferous; till at length words becoming high, she exclaimed she would instantly expire at his feet, unless he would revoke his intention: being fully persuaded some more favoured female had attracted his notice. The poor man, fully satisfied this extraordinary rant was wrought by the power of love, while revolving in his mind whether to comply or refuse, was amazed on a sudden, by beholding her in an attitude of suicide—armed with a blunt knife, which she violently struck against her thick whalebone stays, well knowing their power of resistance.

Mr. G—l—d completely duped, instantly seized the knife, and hastily drawing it through her hand, cut her so dreadfully as to render the assistance of a surgeon immediately necessary.

This affair was the foundation of some amicable understanding between them, and their days now glided on in peace and harmony.

“But joys too mighty, long to last.”