

**MR. PUNCH AT THE
PLAY: HUMOURS OF
MUSIC AND THE DRAMA**

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Mr. Punch at the play: humours of music and the drama by J. A. Hammerton

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J. A. HAMMERTON

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PUNCH LIBRARY OF HUMOUR

Edited by J. A. HAMMERTON

✻ Designed to provide in a series of volumes, each complete in itself, the cream of our national humour, contributed by the masters of comic draughtsmanship and the leading wits of the age to "Punch," from its beginning in 1841 to the present day ✻ ✻ ✻ ✻

MR. PUNCH AT THE PLAY





Actor (on the stage). "Me mind is made up!"
Voice from the Gallery. "What abeaout yer face?"

MR. PUNCH AT THE PLAY

HUMOURS OF MUSIC AND
THE DRAMA

WITH 140 ILLUSTRATIONS

BY

CHARLES KEENE, PHIL
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ON THE CONTINONG	BOOK OF LOVE
WITH THE CHILDREN	





BEFORE THE CURTAIN

MOST of the PUNCH artists of note have used their pencils on the theatre; with theatricals public and private none has done more than Du Maurier. All have made merry over the extravagances of melodrama and "problem" plays; the vanity and the mistakes of actors, actresses and dramatists; and the blunderings of the average playgoer.

MR. PUNCH genially satirises the aristocratic amateurs who, some few years ago, made frantic rushes into the profession, and for a while enjoyed

Mr. Punch at the Play

more kudos as actors than they had obtained as titled members of the upper circle, and the exaggerated social status that for the time accrued to the professional actor as a consequence of this invasion.

The things he has written about the stage, quite apart from all reviewing of plays, would more than fill a book of itself; and he has slyly and laughingly satirised players, playwrights and public with an equal impartiality.

He has got a deal of fun out of the French dramas and the affected pleasure taken in them by audiences that did not understand the language. He has got even more fun out of the dramatists whose "original plays" were largely translated from the French, and to whom Paris was, and to some extent is still, literally and figuratively "a playground."



MR. PUNCH AT THE PLAY

SOMETHING FOR THE MONEY

(From the *Playgoers' Conversation Book*, *Coming Edition*.)



I HAVE only paid three guineas and a half for this stall, but it is certainly stuffed with the very best hair.

The people in the ten - and - sixpenny gallery seem fairly pleased with their dado.

I did not know the call-boy was at Eton.

The expenses of this house must be enormous, if they always play *Box and Cox* with a rasher of real Canadian bacon.

How nice to know that the musicians, though out of sight under the stage, are in evening dress on velvet cushions!