

**ODD MOMENTS OF  
THE WILLOUGHBY  
BOYS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649660360

Odd Moments of the Willoughby Boys by Emily Hartley

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

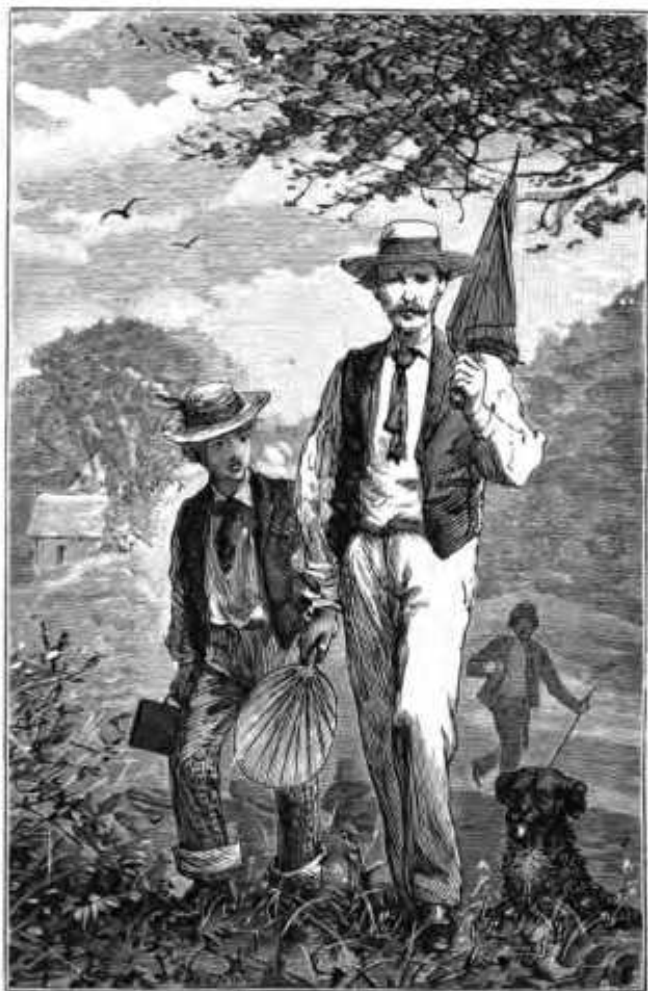
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**EMILY HARTLEY**

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OUT WITH THE PROFESSOR.

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IN THE ARTIST'S MOOD. *Page 49.*

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Thomas Nelson and Sons,  
LONDON, EDINBURGH, AND NEW YORK.

2533. e. 115.

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CHAPTER I.

AN EVENING AT PANTOPS.



ONE morning the children of Questiford Village were surprised on their way to school by the sight of large posters adorning fences, trees, and stone walls in all directions; one occupied a place in the window of Miss Trimble's "toy and fancy goods emporium," as its owner proudly named her tiny store; another was daringly pasted on the door of the school-house. These posters were evidently of home manufacture, for, instead of being printed, they were neatly stencilled; also, certain ornamental flourishes were skilfully executed in crayon. The grown people passing

along the streets gave a glance and smile at these strange adornments of the usually unmeaning blankness of wall and fence. The children gathered in groups before the various red and yellow papers, and there were much laughing and whistling, together with occasional emphatic exclamations of approval found only in the vocabulary of school-boys. The announcement was made on this wise:—

“ATTENTION, ALL!

“An entertainment will be given this (Tuesday) evening in the Pantops dining-room.

“The programme will comprise a number of astounding feats of PRESTIDIGITATION by the Prince of Conjurers, Pierrotto Willinotto.

“A Panorama of Palestine, by a distinguished American artist, will be displayed.

“A remarkable and extensive exhibition of stuffed birds and animals, by an experienced Taxidermist, will close the evening's programme.

“The performance will begin precisely at seven o'clock.

“Admission, threepence. No half-price tickets. Children are requested to bring their parents.”

A feeling of respect succeeded the first impulse to ridicule in the minds of the boys and girls of Questiford as soon as they came to the word, all in