

**THE OLD WAGGON;  
OR, THE OLD LIFE  
AND THE NEW**

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The Old Waggon; Or, the Old Life and the New by A. Rycroft Taylor

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**A. RYCROFT TAYLOR**

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AND THE NEW**





"It was indeed, no other than Mr. Jarvey in the flesh."—See page 205.

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OR,

THE OLD LIFE AND THE NEW.

BY

A. RYCROFT TAYLOR,

*Author of "Wee Dan ;" "For the dear Lord's sake," &c.*

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WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

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CHAPTER I.

THE LAST NIGHT IN THE OLD WAGGON.

**C**ON an autumn evening, some twenty years ago, there stood at an angle of a leafy lane in Cheshire, an old yellow-painted caravan. Like the fading leaves of the spreading chestnut tree that overshadowed it, and the foliage with which it was surrounded, the old waggon had seen its best days, and might be said to be in the autumnal stage of its

existence. Unlike the leaves, which declined in glowing tints of red and brown, the old waggon presented a dingy, weather-stained appearance that somewhat detracted from the picturesqueness of the scene. In years gone by, before the startling novelties which are now characteristic of fairs and wakes had been introduced, the old yellow-painted caravan, with its collection of curiosities, living and inanimate, had constituted a penny exhibition, and had been considered cheap at that. In later times, it had degenerated into a halfpenny show, and had been held by the fastidious in such matters, to be dear at that. Truth to tell, the old waggon was as far behind the age in those days, as a stage coach would be in the present year of grace.

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