

**THE TRUE HISTORY OF
TOM AND JERRY; OR, THE
DAY AND NIGHT SCENES
OF LIFE IN LONDON**

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The True History of Tom and Jerry; Or, the Day and Night Scenes of Life in London by Charles Hindley

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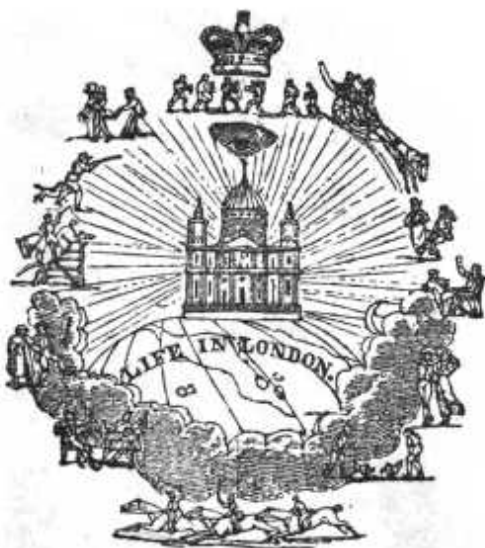
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CHARLES HINDLEY

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THE
TRUE HISTORY
OF
TOM & JERRY:
OR,



LIFE IN LONDON, my boys, is a round of delight,
In frolics, I keep up, both the day and the night,
With my TOM and my JERRY, I try to "get best"
Of the COVES in the East--and the SWELLS at the West!
Such *pals* in a lark, we the TOWN can defy, O!
Then join me in *chaunting* our *precious* TRIO.



BILLY WATERS.

*Mags came thick, this made him merry ;
Fortune changes in a crack—
Folks they went t' see Tom and Jerry,
And on Billy turned their back.*

One notable effect of "Life in London," particularly in its dramatised form must be recorded. It broke the heart of poor Billy Waters, the one-legged musical negro, who died in St. Giles's workhouse, whispering with his ebbing breath, a mild anathema, which sounded very much like : "Cuss him, dam Tom—mee—Tom—mee Jerry !

Poor Billy endeavoured, up to the period of his last illness, to obtain for a wife and two children what he termed, "An honest living by scraping de cat-gut !" by which he originally collected considerable sums of money at the West-end of the town, where his ribbon-decked cocked hat and feathers, with the grin on his countenance, and sudden turn and kick out of his wooden limb, and other antics and efforts to please, excited much mirth and attention, and were well rewarded from the pockets of John Bull.

1872
82

THE
TRUE HISTORY
OF
TOM AND JERRY;
OR,
THE DAY AND NIGHT SCENES,
OF
LIFE IN LONDON
FROM THE START TO THE FINISH!
WITH A KEY TO THE PERSONS AND PLACES,
TOGETHER WITH A VOCABULARY AND GLOSSARY
OF THE
FLASH AND SLANG TERMS,
OCCURRING IN THE COURSE OF THE WORK.

BY
CHARLES HINDLEY,

Editor of "The Old Book Collector's Miscellany; or, a Collection of Readable Reprints of Literary Rarities," "Works of John Taylor—the Water Poet," "The Roxburghe Ballads," "The History of the Catnach Press," "The Curiosities of Street Literature," "The Book of Ready Made Speeches," "Life and Times of James Catnach, late of the Seven Dials, Ballad Monger," "Tavern Anecdotes and Sayings," etc.

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INTRODUCTION.

“Nothing succeeds like success”—or “Fails like failure.”
Prince Talleyrand *cum* Baron Nicholson!

THAT PIERCE EGAN'S *LIFE IN LONDON*, or *TOM and JERRY*, was a success, we have plenty of printed evidence and 'hearsay'! to prove. And we also know—beyond the shadow of a doubt, that the news of its metropolitan fame went forth with almost telegraphic speed throughout the provinces:—From John o'Groat's House to the Land's End!—From Dan to Beersheba!—and back *again!* With *LIFE IN LONDON*, its language became the language of the day; drawing-rooms were turned into *chaffing cribs*, and rank and beauty learned to patter flash *ad nauseam*.

The original work went through several editions in a very short time, and the plates, by the Brothers Cruikshank, were considered so full of amusement that they were transferred to a variety of articles without any loss of time. The *Lady* taking her *gunpowder* was enabled to amuse her visitors with the adventures of *Tom* and *Ferry* on her highly-finished tea-tray. The lovers of Irish *Blackguard* experienced a double zest in taking a pinch from a box, the lid of which exhibited the laughable phiz of the eccentric BOB LOGIC. The country folks were delighted with the handkerchief which displayed TOM getting the best of a Charley, and DUSTY BOB and BLACK SAL. "all happiness!" The *Female of Quality* felt interested with the lively scene of the light fantastic toe at Almack's, when playing with her elegant fan; and the *Connoisseur*, with a smile of satisfaction on his countenance, contemplated his screen, on which were displayed the motley groups of high and low characters continually on the move in the metropolis.

Everybody talked of TOM and JERRY, and crowds rushed to the theatres where the uproarious adventures of these popular personages were represented in a dramatic form. Mr. W. T. Moncrieff's adaptation brought out at the Adelphi Theatre, November 26th, 1821:—which, "*by-the way*," was by far the best of the whole *bunch*!—ran uninterruptedly through two seasons. It then appeared in rapid succession at the Theatres all over England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales; likewise in most of the United States of America, the West Indies, &c.

But although LIFE IN LONDON, or, TOM and JERRY did make our grandfathers so very—*very* / merry in the first quarter of the Nineteenth Century, we are constrained to admit; that

it is a terrible dull and tedious work to read through in the present day, and it is on that very account, that we here place before our readers, what we are pleased to term—**THE TRUE HISTORY OF TOM AND JERRY**; for the work has a history of its own, and to exemplify the fact, we have in the first place, made numerous selections from the original work, then given the principal scenes of Moncrieff's dramatic version of the same, the two concluding chapters of **PIERCE EGAN'S** continuation of his **LIFE IN LONDON** which he entitles—**THE FINISH TO THE ADVENTURES OF TOM, JERRY, and LOGIC**, in their Pursuits through **LIFE IN AND OUT OF LONDON**.* Together with a "KEY to PERSONS and PLACES, and an Etymological and Critical Vocabulary and Glossary of *Flash and Slang Terms*

* Books published by G. Virtue, Ivy-lane, Paternoster-row :—

BOXIANA; or, Sketches of Ancient and Modern Pugilism; including every Exploit from the Days of Figg and Broughton to the present year (1829); with Biographical Memoirs of all the Boxers, particulars of their age, weight, style of fighting, &c.; and interspersed with a variety of Sporting Anecdotes, never before published. By **PIERCE EGAN**.

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Also, just published, uniform with the above, price £1 10s., embellished with 36 richly coloured scenes from real life, and spirited wood cuts, by R. Cruikshank.

"Begar here's Monsieur Tonson come again."

Pierce Egan's Finish to the Adventures of Tom, Jerry, and Logic, in their Pursuits through Life In and Out of London. Being the Second Part, or Continuation of 'Life in London,' calculated to attract the Corinthian, entertain the Sportsman, relieve the cares of the Merchant, a specific against Ennui, delight the Country Folks, please Everybody, and 'No Mistake.'

Also, by the same Author, and uniform with the above.

The Life of an Actor, Peregrine Proteus. Illustrated by Twenty-seven coloured Scenes, representing the Vicissitudes of the Stage; and nine beautiful wood cuts. By **Pierce Egan**, Author of 'Life in London,' 'Tom and Jerry,' &c. Price £1 1s. in boards; or in nine parts, at 2s. 6d. each.

"The present work is one of the best exemplifications of Mr. Egan's peculiar talents. It is impossible for us to do justice to the spirit of the designs, many of which would not discredit the pencil of Hogarth."—*Monthly Critical Gazette*.

occurring in the course of this work," as at once giving an epitome of the whole : and to our mind, sufficient to be known of PIERCE EGAN'S once popular work. To which we have added such historic facts and scraps of information that have come to hand during our researches in connection with the—RISE and PROGRESS—DECLINE and FALL of the BOOK and its STORY. The present generation will find in some of the scenes depicted in such glowing colours, many of the fashions, manners and customs, which prevailed in the reign of King George the Fourth, together with certain landmarks of the past, which no one need regret leaving far behind, and ought to give every encouragement to those who live under the rule of Queen Victoria to maintain a firm faith in the social progress of the age.

The first CHAPTER of LIFE IN LONDON, commences with what the author terms AN INVOCATION, in which, after *invoking!*—"the pleasing, grateful, inspiring, nay, golden advantages resulting from the smiles of that supreme goddess of the gods, FAME!"—which he adds is the—"flattering unction" that all authors *sigh* to be anointed with." He then in very—"merry-go-round—here we go round"—sort of a way calls to his aid many of the past, and, also then, living authors, artists, publishers, and public characters of the day—"to enrich his judgment—guide his pen—inspire him with confidence—and in other ways assist him in the arduous task he has undertaken." And thus he '*invokes.*' Laurence Sterne—divine and humourist—(1713—68):—

—"It is to thee, STERNE, I first humbly bend my knee, and solicit thy most powerful aid. If thou didst not *use up* all thy stock of SENSIBILITY before thou wert called away to enjoy the reward of thy exertions in the