"THE BUGGY;" OR, MR. TURNBULL'S ADVENTURES IN THE NEW WORLD. A SERIOCOMIC ROMANCE, IN RHYME

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"The buggy;" or, Mr. Turnbull's adventures in the New World. A serio-comic romance, in rhyme by George Hardy Tatam

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GEORGE HARDY TATAM

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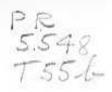
BY

GEORGE HARDY TATAM.

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"THE BUGGY:"

A Porm.

CANTO I.

I,

AFTER experience of my versic powers,

I find I don't excel in the sublime—

My muse is comic, and profusely showers

Her choicest gifts, when called on, any time—

True she can sing of love, and ladies' bowers,

And when she does so, makes a pretty rhyme,

But still her forte is comedy. The serious

She shuns as something highly deleterious.

And so here goes. At once upon the Sea.

Of Poesy my Fairy Vessel floats—

Her masts erect, her proud flag flying free—

To skim thro' Helicon the best of boats

She'll prove herself ere long to all to be

As this, my fancy's flight itself denotes—

An accident I sing, which once I met with

When in a Buggy I a friend was set with.

m

Reader, if then hast ever travell'd far,

Perhaps thou'st seen Toronto's pleasant city—

'Tis by thy waves, Ontario, which are,

When by the sunbeams kissed, to gaze on, pretty—

Nor does Toronto's Bay the handscape mar

Nearly surrounded by a natural jetty,—

With just a narrow entrance to the port,

Of many a craft and steamer the resort.

13'.

Well! in my youthful days, I there was staying—
"Tis good while young some travel to enjoy—
It much improves the mind; and is but paying
The price for knowledge—which like maiden coy—
Requires much courtship—nuto none displaying
Its charms without he winning art employ,—
Instruction seeking, therefore, I left home,

٣.

A lad in years, in Western climes to roam.

Ingenuous youth, from this our sea-girt isle,

Make once, at least, a Continental tour—
I speak of those who, blest with Fortune's smile,

Know not the meaning of the words—"I'm poor"—
Money their aid, a few months they beguile

In viewing Europe from their carriage door,
Returning home so many travell'd zanies,
They prove how strange an animal a man is.

VI.

Ent I was poor—how else were I a poet?—
'Tis old that nature gave me the desire
To see far lands and nations strange, altho' it
Costs much to those who travelling admire.
Such was my passion—nor could I forego it,—
So scraping up what each I might require,
I went to Canada instead of Italy,
And soon was where Toronto's thriving city lay.

VII.

I thought t'would cheaper be to travel where
Infant society was not arrived
At that perfection when it is its care
As much to pocket, as can be derived,
Of cash—from trav'llers having it to spare—
By which means Europeans have contrived
Of stout John Bull to make a pretty penny
By of o'creharges quite a miscellany.

TIII.

But to resume—I was then at Toronto
Spending my leisure, eke a little money—
In search of recreation I had gone to
Places whose Indian-sounding names would stun ye,
And after wand'ring a long time had grown to
Require repose, and so in this good town I
Took up my quarters at the best Hotel,
Where I was fed and lodg'd extremely well.

TX.

And was assembled there a joyous knot
Of youths, and old men, and of middle age
Some human specimens, with many a plot
T' improve their state in life and earn them wage;
With some who, like myself, car'd not a jot
In the pursuit of lucre to engage—
Some spent their days in pleasure, some in business—
Some soher were—some drank themselves to dizziness.

X

Twas summer—summer there is past a joke—
Not like our English imitation faint
Of summers—in whose Dog-days coat or cloak
Is oft-times felt by no means a restraint:
But summer which with thirst nigh makes you choke,
Parches your lips, and gives the meat a taint.
Not Paradise itself can give a nobler
Luxury then—than is a Sherry-Cobbler.

XI

Oft when my thirsting lips have felt to be
Like leathern fences to preserve my teeth—
When my furr'd tongue and mouth could scarce agree
T' allow my lungs thro' them to draw a breath—
Oft have I deem'd that no felicity
Either in Heav'n above or Earth beneath,
Could be compar'd to sucking thro' that straw,
By which the Cobbler to your lips you draw.

XII.

Oh! Yankee-land. Oh! Yankee-land! We smile
At thy eccentric men and curious ways—
Thy customs would be laugh'd at in our isle;
Nor would thy manners gain the meed of praise.
But one may travel weary mile on mile,
May thirst and hunger many, many days
In England, till exhausted nature shrink,

XIII.

Thy Cobbler, Julep, and thy Cocktail are
To thirsty souls perfection in their way;
And he may bless indeed his lucky star
Who can refresh him with them every day—
When the sun scorches him, there is the bar
Affording means of moistening his clay—
And if by Temperance he's rendered nice
He can have water there sublim'd with ice.

Nor find thy sweet variety of drink.

XIV.

Each clime affords to man a grand production—
Holland its liquor, France its laughing wine,
These both are deem'd delicious in the suction—
Both to their makers give of wealth a mine;
Who, without them, would find a great reduction
Of riches which do in their coffers shine.
America can also please the throttle
With drinks as glorious as Anti-tectotal.

XY.

And now, my muse, let us resume our story,
Or men will think we bibulous have grown;
And that thy inspiration is a glory
By taking stimulants upon me thrown;
And that my glass makes me thus dilatory
In writing fairly out what should be shown,
Lest any such a false impression take,
Know, drinking water, I these verses make.

XVI.

A beauteous morning dawn'd upon the world,

The sun shone brightly and the sky was blue,
The wavy mists which on the lake were carl'd,

Melted in wreaths as the day onward drew.
Full many a bark, with canvas neatly furl'd,

Lay by the quay where loung'd their motley crew;
The lake's clear waters, mirror of the sky,
Exposed their secrets to the gazer's eye.

XVII.

It was the Sabbath more. No busy hum

Disturb'd the silence—the deserted streets

Confess'd the day of rest to man was come;

That day the toil-worn lab'rer gladly greets,

For then rejoicing in his quiet home

His love-fraught glance his wife and children meets,

For on that day alone of uil the week,

He may repose and recreation seek.

NYBI

The tinkling bells, a jubilee to man,

From many a tow'r sonorously proclaimed;

And now a crowd the observer's eye might sean,

On boly errand, nor of it asham'd,

As well-attir'd they their walk began

To church or chapel as his creed each fram'd.

The streets that lately were a solitude

Again receiv'd a thronging multitude.

VIV

Which multitude all calmly walk'd and slow,
Save where a morning loit'rer hurried by,
Having at home remain'd till forc'd to go,
By warning bell, to raise his pray'r on high;
Or where another, scorning outward show
Of Piety, prepar'd the town to fly,
And in the woods and by the streams to seek,
One day of rural pleasure in the week.