

**THE CHILDISHNESS AND BRUTALITY
OF THE TIME: SOME PLAIN TRUTHS IN
PLAIN LANGUAGE. SUPPLEMENTED
BY SUNDRY DISCURSIVE ESSAYS
AND NARRATIVES**

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The Childishness and Brutality of the Time: Some Plain Truths in Plain Language.
Supplemented by Sundry Discursive Essays and Narratives by Hargrave Jennings

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HARGRAVE JENNINGS

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"THE characteristic of the modern time is want of depth. The pace of progress is too swift. To offer a paradox, there is so much of 'life' that there is no *living*. Money is tossed from hand to hand without any thought, or knowledge, of its true use. Life is all one dissipation: whether of Mind, whether of Body, whether of Estate. Denunciation, and satire, in the adequately unsparring and powerful hands, may succeed. Society may become so polished as that everything—whether good or bad—shall slide off it. Has that evil time arrived in these modern days? Ruin, bodily and mental, is the outcome of all the above, if persisted in."—ANON.

See also:

— "The New Time: A

Vision of the Past, Present &
Future"

— "Edipus & the Sphinx
of the 19th Century"

THE
CHILDISHNESS AND BRUTALITY
OF THE TIME:

SOME PLAIN TRUTHS IN PLAIN LANGUAGE.

SUPPLEMENTED BY
SUNDRY DISCURSIVE ESSAYS AND NARRATIVES.

By HARGRAVE JENNINGS,

AUTHOR OF "THE ROSICRUCIANS;" "THE INDIAN RELIGIONS; OR, RESULTS OF
THE MYSTERIOUS BUDDHISM;" "ONE OF THE THIRTY;" "CURIOUS THINGS OF
THE OUTSIDE WORLD," &c., &c.

— "Laws for all faults;
But faults so *condemned*, that the strong 'statutes'
Stand like the forfeits in a barber's shop,
As much to mock as work."

MEASURE FOR MEASURE.

London:
VIZETELLY & CO., CATHERINE ST., STRAND.

1883.

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PREFACE.

I HAVE for a certain number of years concluded that our present age has become vastly too swift for that which, by a contradictory metaphor, may be called, "safe-running." I do not think I shall be corrected to exactness in averring that, for most purposes of truth and of cool, sound judgment, a previous time was very greatly superior to the hasty and conceited period in which we live. There are various reasons for this falling off. Principally among these causes are love of show, love of money, love of self. All these are good qualities in moderation; but, exaggerated and forced to an extreme, it needs no modern Diogenes—with his proverbial lantern to light him in his search for the "honest man," or, as the best Greek readers assure us is the meaning, the "Man"—to know that they fail.

I may be thought too severe upon this modern

time, and upon that which may be stigmatised (by a bold word) almost as our contemporaneous, noisy—if not even *riotous*—civilization. I do not think that I am unduly bitterly influenced.

Now, in regard to another feature of my book. It is of no use producing in these days—so worn with toil, and with the feeling of the stings of necessity—a book, unless it be an amusing one. This end of amusement I have sought to secure, or at all events to try towards doing so, by mingling with my sermons—which of course must always be serious—some interesting accounts and narratives, founded I assure my readers, in the greater part from real facts in the real world. For life is much more eccentric and singular, and more laughable, than is usually supposed.

Those who honour me by examining into what I say—especially in those portions that deal with the droll life, or droller impressions of old-fashioned sailors—now unfortunately to the greater extent a “lost quantity”—may be assured that my sea-stories, however difficult of belief in modern ideas, are genuine. I may explain that, when I was a youth of very juvenile age, I wrote side by side

with the distinguished novelist, Captain Marryat, a series of sea-sketches, which appeared anonymously in the *Metropolitan Magazine*, wherein the successive chapters of *Jacob Faithful*, of *Peter Simple*, and *Ratlin the Reefer*, were being published. I recall, even at this distance of time, the look of amused astonishment, years after, when Captain Marryat was informed of the extremely boyish age (fifteen) at which the naval stories were produced by the unknown and ambitious writer; to the boy's own wonder and gratification at their success.

And now I commit this present work—*The Childishness and Brutality of the Time*—to the indulgence of the Critics and the Public.

HARGRAVE JENNINGS.

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