

**MR. PUNCH AFLOAT:
THE HUMOURS OF
BOATING AND SAILING**

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Mr. Punch afloat: the humours of boating and sailing by J. A. Hammerton

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J. A. HAMMERTON

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BOATING AND SAILING**

PUNCH LIBRARY OF HUMOUR

Edited by J. A. HAMMERTON

Designed to provide in a series of volumes, each complete in itself, the cream of national humour, contributed by the masters of comic draughtsmanship and the leading wits of the age to "Punch," from its beginning in 1841 to the present day

MR. PUNCH AFLOAT





"MR. PUNCH AFLOAT"

MR PUNCH AFLOAT

THE
HUMOURS
OF BOATING
AND SAILING

AS PICTURED BY

SIR JOHN TENNIEL, GEORGE
DU MAURIER, JOHN LEECH,
CHARLES KEENE, PHIL MAY,
L. RAVEN-HILL, LINLEY
SAMBOURNE, G. D. ARMOUR,
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PARTRIDGE, AND OTHERS



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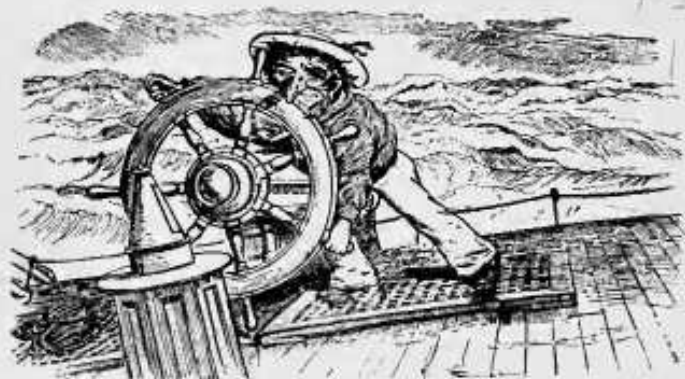
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MR. PUNCH AT THE HELM!

(By way of Introduction)

RIVER and sea, with their teeming summer life as we know them in Great Britain and around our coasts, have yielded a rich supply of subjects for the pens and pencils of MR. PUNCH's merry men. In Stevenson's famous story of "The Merry Men," it is the cruel side of the sea that is symbolised under that ironic description; but there is no touch of gall, no sinister undertone, in the mirth of MR. PUNCH's "merry men."

It may be protested that in the pages of this little book, where we have brought together for the first time all MR. PUNCH's "happy thoughts" about boating and sailing, the miseries of travel by sea and the discomforts of holiday life on our inland waters are too much insisted upon. But it is as much the function of the humorist as it is the business of the

Mr. Punch Afloat

philosopher to hold the mirror up to nature, and we are persuaded that it is no distorted mirror in which Mr. PUNCH shows us to ourselves.

After all, although as a nation we are proud to believe that Britannia rules the waves, and to consider ourselves a sea-going people, for the most of us our recollections of Channel passages and trips around our coasts are inevitably associated with memories of *mal-de-mer*, and it says much for our national good humour that we can turn even our miseries into jest.

Afloat or ashore, Mr. PUNCH is never "at sea," and while his jokes have always their point, that point is never barbed, as these pages illustrative of the humours of boating and sailing—with Mr. PUNCH at the helm—may be left safely to bear witness.



MR. PUNCH AFLOAT

'ARRY ON THE RIVER



DEAR CHARLIE,

'OT weather at last! Wot a bloomin'
old slusher it's bin,
This season! But now it do look as though
Summer was goin' to begin.
Up to now it's bin muck and no error, fit
only for fishes and frogs,
And has not give a chap arf a chance like of
sporting 'is 'oliday togs.

Sech a sweet thing in mustard and pink, quite *reshershay* I
tell you, old man.
Two quid's pooty stiff, but a buster and blow the expense is
my plan ;
With a stror 'at and *puggeree*, Charlie, low shoes and new
mulberry gloves.
If I didn't jest fetch our two gals, it's a pity;—and wasn't
they loves?
We'd three chaps in the boat besides me,—jest a nice little
party of six,
But they didn't get arf a look in 'long o' me ; they'd no form,
them two sticks.
If you'd scen me a settin' and steerin' with one o' the shes
on each side,
You'd a thought me a Turk in check ditters, and looked on
your 'Arry with pride.