

**THE WASSAIL-
BOWL; VOL. II**

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The wassail-bowl; Vol. II by Albert Smith

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ALBERT SMITH

**THE WASSAIL-
BOWL; VOL. II**



THE
WASSAIL-BOWL.

BY
ALBERT SMITH.

Author. Who now can taste a treatise of deep sense
And ponderous volume? 'Tis impertinence
To write what none will read; therefore will I
To please the young and thoughtless people try.

Shelley's Scenes from Faust.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LONDON:
RICHARD BENTLEY, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

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THE
WASSAIL-BOWL.

THE PHYSIOLOGY OF EVENING PARTIES.

VOL. II.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE favourable manner in which these papers were received during their weekly appearance in the columns of *Punch*, has induced their publication in the present form. They have been carefully revised; and the author has, moreover, been enabled to avail himself of the assistance of an esteemed friend, to whose clever illustrations he will not fail to attribute any renewed favour that his "Physiology" may meet with.

THE PHYSIOLOGY OF EVENING
PARTIES.

CHAPTER I.

IN WHICH THE AUTHOR INVOKES CERTAIN
ASSISTANCE.



ALTZES,
whist, wax-
candles and
waistcoats!
Chandeliers,
and champagne! *Croquets*,
creams, cornets-à-piston, and
cracker bon-bons! Flirts, floun-
ces, and flowers! A *mêlée* of
delicious and captivating images
crowds upon us at once, and in-
volves our ideas in a mass of
inextricable confusion for our
commencement.

'Twinkling-footed Terpsichore! — Gentle goddess
whose bright showers—oh, no! that's another—gen-
tle goddess of pumps and pirouettes! lady patroness of

coquettes and confectioners! a bewildered author implores thee to inspire him, by the transfer of a small portion of liveliness from thy own heels to his head. By the charming attributes of thy most favoured votaries;—by Marie Taglioni's gauze wings, and Fanny Elssler's brass-heeled *brodequins*; by Pauline Duvernay's ruby lips, Fanny Cerito's alabaster shoulders, and Carlotta Grisi's symmetrical figure; by the Gitana, Cracovienne, Cachoucha, and Lithuanienne, descend! Descend, we beseech thee, and mesmerise our brain with some of the active magnetic influence that pervades thy thrilling and vibrating organization!

Coy creature! dost thou require further invocation? Thou shalt have it. By Jullien, who fancies himself



good-looking; and by Musard, whom nobody ever accused of beauty; by the glorious and inspiring waltzes of Strauss, Lannar, and Labitsky—waltzes whose names the author would be but too happy to chronicle in these pages, did he not fear his steel-pen would

break down in the adventurous attempt ; by Weippert, Collinet, Litolf, Adams, and the indefatigable little Blagrove, he once more implores your assistance !

We have waited for five minutes in an agony of expectation, and we are not sensible of any unusual inspiration. No dense clouds of aromatic vapour, rolling in delicious and enervating volumes, have filled the room ; neither has the carpet opened, the walls divided, or the ceiling vanished, in allowing any lovely spirit, whose silk fleshings move in pliant grace beneath the transparent undulations of her book-muslin tunic, to visit our mundane, or rather our ærial apartment. We perceive that we are, as usual, left to our own resources ; with the reflection on the chilling truth, that virtuous woodcutters and youngest princes are the only persons who, upon nursery authority, appear to have ever received morning calls or mental assistance from the feminine children of the air.