

# **SKETCHES FROM LIFE**

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Sketches from life by Harriet Martineau

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**HARRIET MARTINEAU**

**SKETCHES  
FROM LIFE**



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1856  
MAIN

## PREFACE.



“Sketches from Life” is truly the description of these Tales. “Father d’Estélan” is founded on a historical fact nearly two hundred years old. The rest have all fallen within my own cognizance in regard to their leading incidents, though I have taken liberties in the mode of their presentment, for various reasons, and especially for purposes of disguise, in consideration of the feelings of persons who might otherwise detect the originals of my portraits. In almost all cases, however, the subjects of these sketches are dead; and several have left

no survivors whose feelings are in any danger.

Most of these tales appeared, under the same title, in a weekly newspaper of small circulation a few years ago. They were contributed on the express understanding that they should remain my property, and be re-issued if I should think fit. The time for their republication appears to have arrived; and I hope that their simple and accurate truth of representation of character and conduct may impart to them a quality of interest which may secure their spirited publisher from anxiety or repentance on account of an enterprise planned at his express request.

H. MARTINEAU.

*The Knoll, Ambleside,*

*February 18th, 1855.*

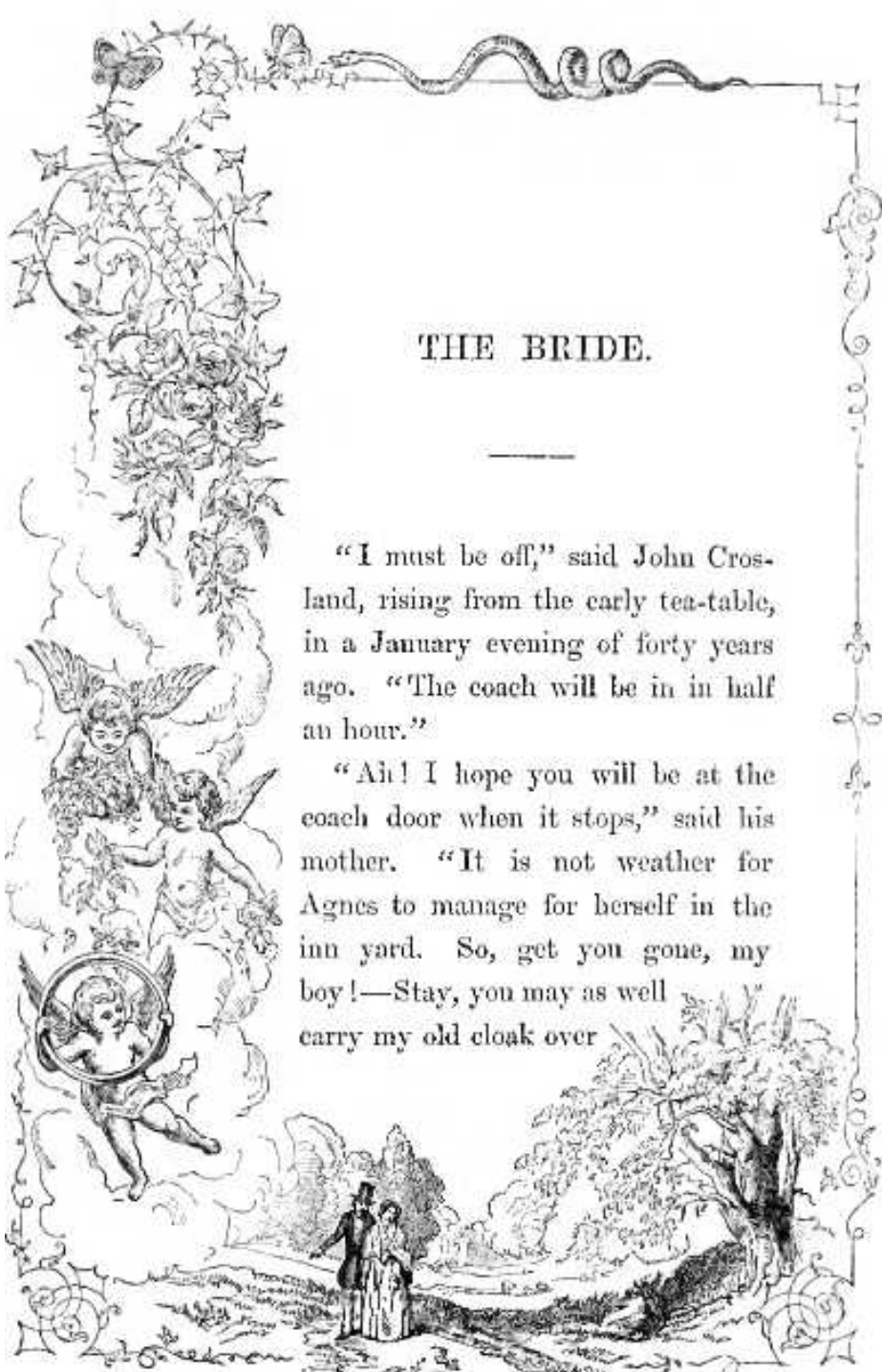


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## THE BRIDE.

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“I must be off,” said John Crossland, rising from the early tea-table, in a January evening of forty years ago. “The coach will be in in half an hour.”

“Ah! I hope you will be at the coach door when it stops,” said his mother. “It is not weather for Agnes to manage for herself in the inn yard. So, get you gone, my boy!—Stay, you may as well carry my old cloak over

