

**THE MIDSUMMER MEDLEY. A  
SERIES OF COMIC TALES,  
SKETCHES, AND FUGITIVE  
VAGARIES. IN PROSE AND VERSE;  
IN TWO VOLUMES, VOL. I**

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The Midsummer Medley. A Series of Comic Tales, Sketches, and Fugitive Vagaries. In Prose and Verse; In Two Volumes, Vol. I by Horace Smith

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**HORACE SMITH**

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THE  
MIDSUMMER MEDLEY.

A SERIES OF  
COMIC TALES,  
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IN PROSE AND VERSE.

BY THE AUTHOR OF 'SEAMBLETYE HOUSE,'  
ETC. ETC.

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'It is a good thing to laugh at any rate; and if a straw can tickle a man, it is an instrument of happiness.' DRYDEN.

*Wm. Smith*

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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LONDON:  
HENRY COLBURN AND RICHARD BENTLEY,  
NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

1832.

*(Wm. Smith)*

## PREFACE.

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CRITICS are constantly telling us to look at the external world—to hold the mirror up to Nature. We have done so—and lo! she reflects us back a Midsummer Medley, of mingled weeds and wild flowers, whispering to us from yonder tuft of Heartsease that light reading is the most appropriate for light days; that the holiday season should be kept, not only in our schools, but in our fancies, by a temporary relaxation from our graver literature; that a little playfulness and frivolity, varied occasionally by a more

serious tone, may not be altogether unseasonable; and that at all events the humblest writer, trifling and perhaps idling under the influence of a Midsummer-day, ought not to have less latitude allowed him than was assumed by the immortal author of a *Midsummer Night's Dream*, when he compounded together in the same drama the wild vagaries of Oberon, Titania, and Robin Goodfellow, with the farcical exploits of Bottom the Weaver and his companions, sapiently puzzling themselves how they should enact the parts of Wall, Moonshine, and Lion.

Pleasant and light-hearted Reader! if, when all nature is laughing around thee, thou dost not object to smile at trifles, and art duly impressed with the wisdom of sometimes ceasing to be wise, we invite thee to a perusal of our Medley, promising thee a similar offering next Midsummer, should the present

be deemed worthy the patronage of what we shall in that case most cordially term a *discerning* Public. It is our aim to tickle the fancy rather than the eye;—to the splendour and the embellishments of an Annual we make not therefore the smallest pretension; but we have endeavoured to rival the variety of matter usually found in such works, so far as that object can be attained by a single pen.

We have only to state, in conclusion, that our Publishers, influenced doubtless by the postponement of the Midsummer weather till the latter end of July, have very naturally selected the same period for the appearance of **THE MIDSUMMER MEDLEY.**



\* \* A few of the Papers have already appeared in the  
New Monthly Magazine.

**CONTENTS**  
**OF THE**  
**FIRST VOLUME.**

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	<b>Page</b>
The Hurricane and the Menace . . . . .	1
The Italian Image-Boy . . . . .	12
The Pleasant Tête-à-tête . . . . .	27
The Legend of Saint Basil . . . . .	31
Song . . . . .	66
Flavia and Julia Donna . . . . .	68
A Tour to the Lakes . . . . .	101
Hints to the Young Novel Writer . . . . .	115
The Sanctuary . . . . .	214
Hatem Tai, an Arabian Tale . . . . .	218
An Easy Remedy . . . . .	233
Mark Higginbotham . . . . .	235

