

**PROMETHEUS BRITANNICUS;
OR, JOHN BULL
AND THE RURAL
POLICE, A TRAGIC-COMEDY**

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Prometheus Britannicus; or, John Bull and the rural police, a tragic-comedy by Rugbean

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RUGBEAN

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PROMETHEUS BRITANNICUS;

OR,

John Bull and the Rural Police.



Alley

PROMETHEUS BRITANNICUS;

OR,

JOHN BULL AND THE RURAL POLICE.

A Tragic-Comedy,

IN ONE ACT.



BY A RUGBÆAN.

"Cassius from bondage will deliver Cassius:
Therein, ye Gods, ye make the weak most strong;
Therein, ye Gods, you tyrants do defeat.
Nor strong tower, nor walls of beaten brass,
Nor airless dungeon, nor strong links of iron,
Can be retentive to the strength of spirit."—JULIUS CÆSAR.

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CHARLES TILT, 86, FLEET STREET.

MDCCLX.

293.

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DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

JOHN BULL	<i>Prometheus.</i>
POLICE COMMISSIONER	<i>Strength.</i>
POOR-LAW COMMISSIONER	<i>Fortes.</i>
POLICEMAN (No. 1. of the A division)	<i>Fulcan,</i>
OCEAN	<i>Oceanus.</i>
BRITANNIA	<i>Io.</i>
INSPECTOR OF POLICE	<i>Mercury.</i>

CHORUS.

RUNALIDES, OF WORKHOUSE AND JAIL NYMPHS . *Oceanides.*

SCENE.—*The Station-House, Scotland Yard, London.*

INTRODUCTION.

THE generality of English readers have some acquaintance with the ancient dramatic poets, and those who have been from early boyhood familiar with the high and noble sentiments immortalized in their writings, cannot fail to adapt and appropriate them to the passing changes and innovations of the day. I shall not, therefore, indulge in a lavish display of learning, my own, or that of others, in introducing the following adaptation to my gentle readers, learned or unlearned. Both will bear to be reminded, that the Prometheus Bound is one of the noblest productions of Grecian intellect, exhibiting steadfast firmness under unjust coercion; and that he was the type of philanthropy itself, inasmuch as he suffered for resistance to tyrannical power, and for nothing else but a design to render mankind wise, free, and happy. Sentiment, rather than passion,