

**OFF THE MILL; SOME
OCCASIONAL
PAPERS**

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Off the mill; some occasional papers by G. F. Browne

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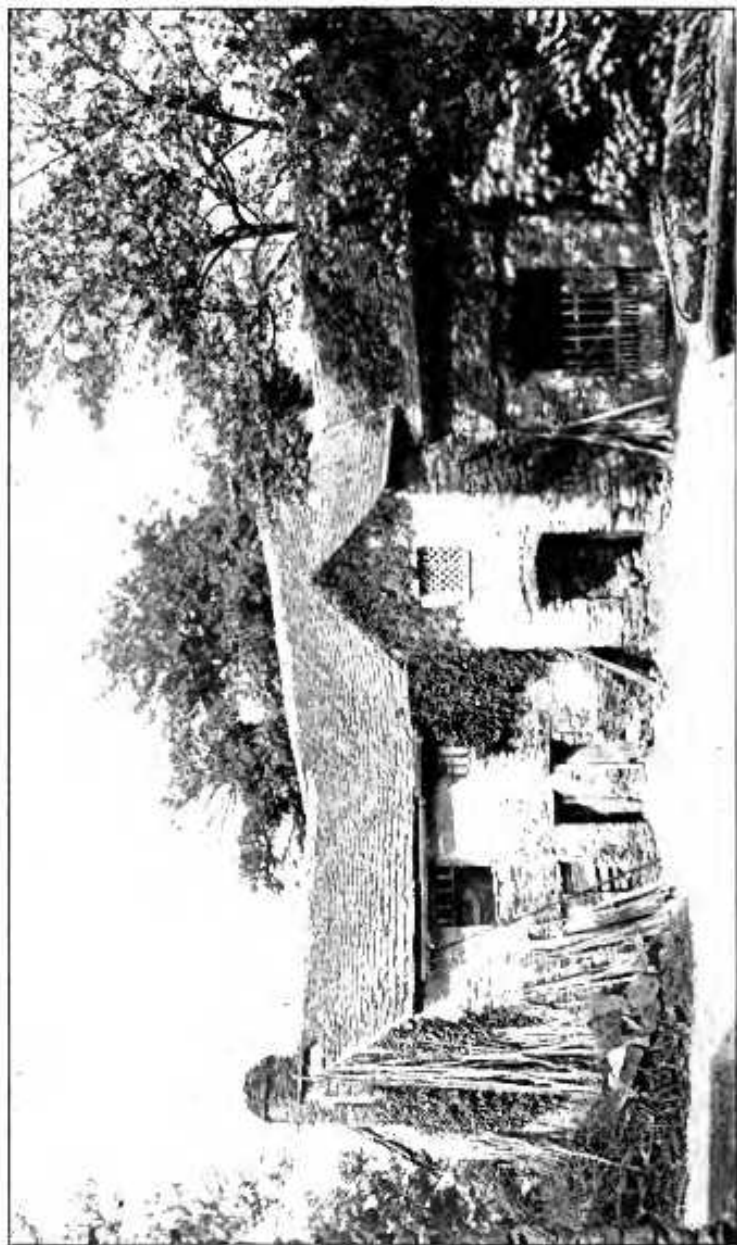
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G. F. BROWNE

**OFF THE MILL; SOME
OCCASIONAL
PAPERS**



THE OLD LOW HOUSE
(Collecting Area)

OFF THE MILL

SOME OCCASIONAL PAPERS

BY

G. F. BROWNE, B.D., D.C.L.

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UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

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P R E F A C E

WHEN I rejoined the Alpine Club last winter, after some years of absence from that most pleasant society, it was suggested that I should collect and publish some of my papers on Alpine subjects, which appeared thirty years ago and more in various periodicals. That is the excuse for the present little book.

Some of the 'Cornhill' articles appeared originally with illustrations, the earliest, or almost the earliest, examples of Mr. Du Maurier's work. It was at first intended to reproduce these, which I have always regarded as the best part of the papers. But on consideration we came to the conclusion that the great change which has taken place in ladies' dress would cause the illustrations to seem unreal. The present generation of Alpine climbers, if the book falls into the hands of any such, will find in the text quite sufficient indications of the earlier state of things. Their way to their work is made much more smooth and easy than ours was. We had no Einspänner, and we carried our own things.

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I have added one or two papers on other subjects. The 'Night with a Salmon' records an experiment which gave rise to a new kind of sport, namely, salmon fishing in heavy tidal waters, where it used to be supposed that rod-fishing was out of the question. I shall be glad if 'Collecting Ancestors' leads some readers to enter upon the investigations which I have found so interesting. The 'Archæological Frauds in Palestine' conveys warnings of general interest, I think; and the papers on 'Pontresina' and 'The Engadine' will not be without result if they induce anyone to take more than a surface interest in the beautiful district to which so many of us in London owe such strength as we have.

I have to thank the editor of the 'National Review' for permission to use a recent article.

G. F. STEPNEY

May, 1895.

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ILLUSTRATIONS



THE OLD LOW-HOUSE ('COLLECTING ANCESTORS') *Frontispiece*

THE BIG FISH ('A NIGHT WITH A SALMON') *to face page 138*

*HOW WE SLEPT
AT THE CHÂLET DES CHÈVRES*¹

WE were a party of three pedestrians; two sisters, A. and M., and one brother, G. The former had been developing their walking powers during a stay of two or three months among the woods of the Jura, by such rambles as ladies might take unaccompanied, and the advent of the male person of the party had long been looked forward to, as opening up a number of excursions too extensive or too ambitious for the sisters alone. In fact, they were not alone; but the other members of the family party lacked the physical power requisite for their long climbs, and could scarcely feign a sympathy with what foreigners know as the English mania for wandering and mounting.

And yet it was strange that the clear air of the upland village had not supplied the one, and the tempting beauty of the scene the other. Below was the lake, with its broad frame of flat and richly wooded country, stretching away to the west till lost amid the glancing skylights of Geneva. The whole plain lay hot and parched under the terrible August sun, suggesting

¹ *Cornhill Magazine*, September 1863.