

**THE VILLAGE  
POOR-HOUSE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649048694

The Village Poor-House by James White

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Cover @ 2017

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**JAMES WHITE**

**THE VILLAGE  
POOR-HOUSE**



THE  
VILLAGE POOR-HOUSE.

BY

THE REV. JAMES WHITE,

LATE CURATE OF HARVEST CUM BOXFED, SUFFOLK.

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Let not Ambition mock their useful toil,  
——— their destinies obscure,  
Nor Grandeur hear, with a disdainful smile,  
The short and simple annals of the Poor.

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SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:  
SMITH, ELDER, AND CO., CORNHILL.

1832.

319.

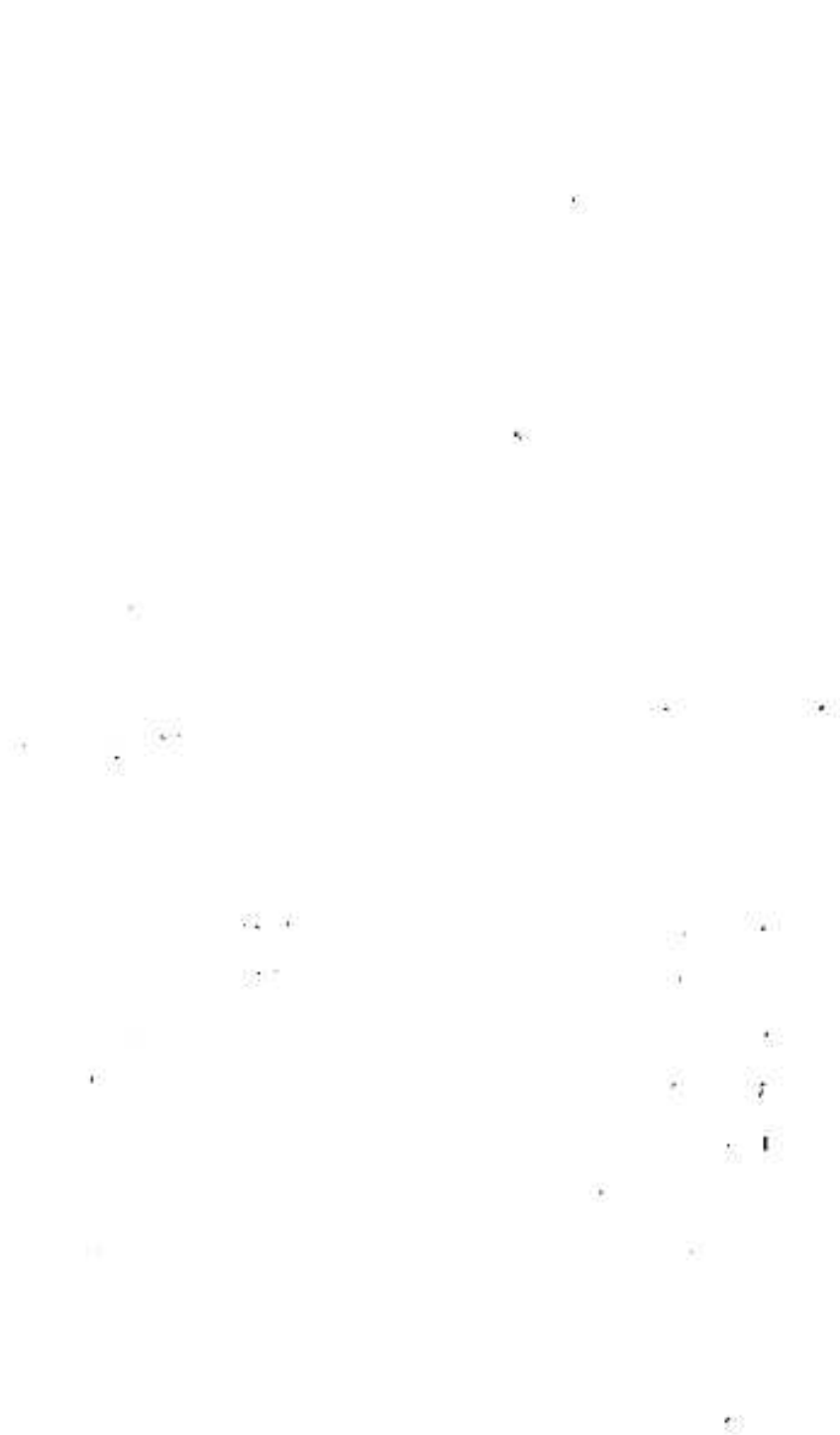
LONDON:  
Printed by Maurice and Co., Fenchurch Street.

## DEDICATION.

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THE following attempt to illustrate the state of feeling amidst the Pauper Population, is respectfully dedicated to LORD BROUGHAM, First in Talents—First in Honour—and First in the Hearts of his Countrymen.

14th May, 1832.





## P R E F A C E

TO THE SECOND EDITION.

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THE favourable notice which the Press has taken of this little volume, is to be attributed, I am well aware, to the object it has in view, rather than to the merits of the composition. The demand for a "Second Edition," in so short a time, proves that the state of the Poor in the Rural Districts, has awakened more sympathy than I was sanguine enough to hope. Enquiry into their sufferings is certain to lead to their amelioration. I have been accused by a small portion of the Press, of endeavouring to stir up bad passions, and to excite the dis-

content of the Poor, without procuring them any benefit. The book, it will be seen, is not addressed to the Poor;—it merely contains an exposition of what, from personal communication with many of them, I know to be their feelings;—they are immoral, vicious, and discontented—and, it need not be stated after that, that they are ignorant. I feel no “stings of conscience” in making these declarations, whether in verse or prose—and if they are made “without procuring the Poor any benefit,” I have only to say, it is not my fault—and certainly not my intention.

## INTRODUCTION.



TO ———, ESQ.

MY DEAR ———,

I NEED not assure you that the Village described in the following lines, is a fictitious one, and that the characters introduced in them are imaginary. Five years' experience, as a Country Curate, has taught me many painful lessons and many bitter truths. It has shewn me a degraded and benighted peasantry, and convinced me that all the descriptions of country life, which we admire in the poets, are *only* poetical. "God made the country, and man made the town." Alas! God made both, and man defaces both. But when we turn from the representations of rural life to its reality, we are startled to find the virtues as much banished