

**THE HOBBY-HORSE,
A COMEDY IN
THREE ACT**

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The Hobby-Horse, a Comedy in Three Act by Arthur W. Pinero

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ARTHUR W. PINERO

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THREE ACT**

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A COMEDY IN THREE ACTS

BY
ARTHUR W. PINERO

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959
1857
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THE PERSONS OF THE PLAY.

SPENCER JERMYN,	MRS. PORCHER,
MRS SPENCER JERMYN,	SHATTOCK,
TOM CLARK,	PEWS,
REV. NOEL BRICE,	LYMAN,
BERTHA,	MOULTER,
PINCHING,	MRS. LONDON,
MISS MOXON,	TINY LONDON,
HEWETT.	

THE FIRST ACT.

A CHAPTER OF PHILANTHROPY.

THE SECOND ACT.

A CHAPTER OF SENTIMENT.

THE THIRD ACT.

A CHAPTER OF EXPIATION.

M510547



INTRODUCTORY NOTE

Six years ago dramatic conventionality exercised an even greater tyranny than it does to-day, and British playgoers were less prepared than now to look favorably upon any effort to resist it. That the persons in a play should be dealt with according to the probabilities of actual life, when these clashed with the dictates of theatrical custom and "poetical justice," was not to be endured. The expectations of an audience were held sacred, and were not to be tampered with. They were as inexorable as the laws of the Medes and Persians, and any dramatist who had the temerity to bring down his curtain without having first made all his sympathetic characters happy might expect little favor. But even at that time Mr. Pinero was always inclined to fly in the face of the theatrically conventional in some way or another, and he actually dared to write a play in which a young clergyman, for whom the deep sympathy of the audience was enlisted, was permitted to fall innocently and honorably in love with

a married woman while he had thought her single, and to suffer pain on her account, without the husband being conveniently killed off in the last act to prepare the way for the clergyman's expected matrimonial happiness. And this play Mr. Pinero, having his own dramatic purpose in view, described as a comedy.

"The Hobby Horse" was produced at the St. James's Theatre, under the management of Mr. Hare and Mr. Kendal, on October 23, 1886, and it was acted until February 26, 1887, one hundred and nine performances being given in all. The following is a copy of the programme of the first representation :

ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.

LESSEES AND MANAGERS, MR. HARE AND MR. KENDAL.

THIS EVENING, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23rd, 1886,

At 8 o'clock,

WILL BE ACTED

AN ORIGINAL COMEDY IN THREE ACTS, CALLED

THE HOBBY-HORSE,

WRITTEN BY

A. W. PINERO.