

**THE CONCEITED  
SPARROW  
OF NEEMUCH**

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The conceited sparrow of Neemuch by A. P. F

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**A. P. F**

**THE CONCEITED  
SPARROW  
OF NEEMUCH**



# THE CONCEITED SPARROW

OF

## NEEMUCH.

*A Conceit in Four Flights of Fancy.*

BY

A. P. F.

"Sae I gat paper in a blink,  
And down gaed sturpule in the ink;  
Quoth I, 'Before I sleep a wink,  
I vow I'll close it;  
And if I canna mak it clink,  
By Jove, I'll prose it."  
Sae I've begun to scrawl, but whether  
In rhyme or prose or both thegither,  
Or some hotch-potch that's rightly neither  
Let time mak proof;  
But I'll just scribble down some blether  
Just clean aff loof."—BRUNS.



London:

REMINGTON AND CO.,

133, NEW BOND STREET, W.

[Removed from 5, Arundel Street, Strand]

1880.

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## THE STORY AS I HEARD IT.

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"A world of fowls beneath the sunbeams fly  
That are not fit t' inform a prophecy."

CHAPMAN'S HOMER, "ODYSSEY."

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## PREFACE.

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### THE STORY AS I HEARD IT.

"A world of fowls beneath the sunbeams fly  
That are not fit t' inform a prophecy."  
CHAPMAN'S HOMER, "ODYSSEY."

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A JULY evening in 187—, the notes of a harshly braying bugle ring out through the sultry, oven-like atmosphere their nightly and startling declaration that—

"Officers' wives have puddings and pies  
And soldiers' wives have skilly,"

proclaiming that it is eight o'clock and time for dinner. We assemble as usual round the table of the Station Mess at Neemuch, where were, at that time, quartered three companies of Queen's Infantry, a regiment of Native Infantry, a regiment of Native Cavalry, and a battery of Artillery; with the exception of the last, all the European officers (including the Staff) combined to form one mess.

Meeting night after night in a small place where nothing occurs to vary the daily round