

**IN LIGHTER VEIN; A COLLECTION OF  
ANECDOTES, WITTY SAYINGS, BON MOTS,  
BRIGHT REPORTEES, ECCENTRICITIES AND  
REMINISCENCES OF WELL-KNOWN MEN  
AND WOMEN WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN  
PROMINENT IN THE PUBLIC EYE**

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In lighter vein; a collection of anecdotes, witty sayings, bon mots, bright repartees, eccentricities and reminiscences of well-known men and women who are or have been prominent in the public eye by John De Morgan

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# **JOHN DE MORGAN**

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WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN  
PROMINENT IN THE  
PUBLIC EYE

COLLECTED, EDITED  
AND PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC  
BY

**JOHN DE MORGAN**

AUTHOR OF  
"LITERARY SIDE OF THE PRESIDENTS"  
"HOMES AND HAUNTS OF BRITISH AUTHORS"  
"HEROES OF THE CROMWELLIAN ERA"  
ETC.



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## *Introduction*

*At odd times and from various sources the Editor has gathered together these, among many more, anecdotes, witty sayings, bright repartees, sparkling rejoinders, slips of the tongue made and told by men and women whose names are as familiar as household words.*

*He is well aware that much that is witty is not humorous, for, as Lord Chesterfield well said, "True wit never made any man laugh since the creation of the world."*

*Wit is thought tersely expressed, for to quote Pope:*

*"True wit to Nature to advantage drest;  
What oft was thought, but ne'er so well  
expressed."*

*Like wit, repartee is brilliancy of thought expressed in language terse and epigrammatic. "Lightning is the wit of heaven," said Sydney Smith, and his definition was a well-expressed epigram.*

*The world is full of wits, men who, as Sydney Smith once said, "have bodies not large*

enough to cover their minds decently." The world, however, is far happier for having had them.

*Wit originates in the mind, humor originates in the feelings; the essence of wit lies in the uniting of incongruous ideas, while the essence of humor lies in incongruities of manner and conduct.*

*Humor is often sympathetic, while wit is satirical; wit provokes laughter, humor is provocative of laughter. The humorist, by his humor, directs attention to the idiosyncracies, the views and aspects of other people, while the wit causes attention to center in himself, as the originator of the witticism.*

*In the anecdotes of prominent persons, by the reading of their witty sayings, through the scintillations of great minds, we find a relaxation in this modern work-a-day world, and we believe that the best men are to be found among those who enjoy wit and humor.*

*So, when the mind is tired, the brain worried into nervousness, let us cast aside thoughts of self and seek rest and pleasure in the Lighter Vein of Life.*

*J. De M.*

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