

**MIRANDA: A
MIDSUMMER
MADNESS, VOL. II**

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Miranda: a midsummer madness, Vol. II by Mortimer Collins

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MORTIMER COLLINS

**MIRANDA: A
MIDSUMMER
MADNESS, VOL. II**

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

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MIRANDA;
A MIDSUMMER MADNESS.

BY
MORTIMER COLLINS.

VOL. II.

"Why, this is very midsommer madness.

Though this be madness, yet there 's method in 't."

—SHAKESPEARE.

LONDON: HENRY S. KING & CO.

65 CORNHILL AND 11 PATERNOSTER ROW.

1873.

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CONTENTS.

CHAP.	PAGE
I. THE HAPPY FAMILY	I
II. HAROLD TACHBROOK AT ROTHESCAMP	11
III. THE PALINOURA	23
IV. STILL AT SEA	33
V. WHICH IS THE BARONET ?	43
VI. A MOONLIGHT STROLL AND ITS RESULTS	58
VII. ROTHESCAMP-ON-THE-HILL	73
VIII. ELLA	82
IX. CHRISTMAS AT ROTHESCAMP	94
X. TIXOVER'S DILEMMA	104
XI. MIRANDA'S BEDCHAMBER	117
XII. SNOW	129
XIII. THAW	140
XIV. MAY	146
XV. "TIX" ²⁹	155
XVI. SEROZA	169

CHAP.	PAGE
XVII. AGAIN AT SEA	184
XVIII. UP THE QUEEN OF RIVERS	193
XIX. O. O. ON BOARD THE "PALINOURA"	200
XX. SEPTIMUS TACHEBROOK, M.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.S., ETC.,	213
XXI. SEROZA'S STORY	224
XXII. TIXOVER HALL	235
XXIII. BRISTOL	245

MIRANDA;

A MIDSUMMER MADNESS.



CHAPTER I.

THE HAPPY FAMILY.

“A party in a parlour.”
—WORDSWORTH.

THE Troglodyte surrendered Adam and Eve right willingly to the care of Miss Delisle; but he did not leave Sark, for he had heard of its wondrous sea-caverns tapestried with marine anemone, and with great gateways opening to wide stretches of sea and cliff. Singularly satisfied with Miss Delisle as an instructress of eccentric youth, he left his young folk under her care, and returned to the quiet little hotel, where the chief fare

was lobsters and rabbits and claret. He took leave of Miss Delisle and the youngsters, at first intending to return at once to England ; but, as he sat that evening over his wine, and saw the full moon sink yellow, leaving silver paths along the sea that might have been made for angel-princesses, and meditated on the caverns he had heard of, and the delicious isolation and uncivilisation, he thought he would stay a day or two. Whether he thought of anything else, who can say ?

Anyway, he settled down awhile. Messrs Sherwood had his directions. His sole desire as to the estate and baronetcy was to see justice done ; he was only too glad to dwell quietly in a corner. So he stayed quietly at Madame Vaudin's, and wandered everywhere, and thoroughly enjoyed himself.

Meanwhile Miss Delisle's six pupils were shaking down into a reasonable state. It is probably a pity that the eccentricities of nature should be crushed out ; but regular people are the majority ; irregular people, unless very strong, must suffer. Unrestrained Susanna would have made a capital Semira-