PEN AND INK; PAPERS ON SUBJECTS OF MORE OR LESS IMPORTANCE

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Pen and Ink; Papers on Subjects of More or Less Importance by Brander Matthews

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BRANDER MATTHEWS

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BY

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PEN AND INK.

Ye wanderers that were my sires,
Who read men's fortunes in the hand,
Who voyaged with your smithy fires
From waste to waste across the land,
Why did you leave for garth and town
Your life by heath and river's brink?
Why lay your Gipsy freedom down
And doom your child to Pen and Ink?

You wearied of the wild-wood meal
That crowned, or failed to crown, the day,
Too bonest or too tame to steal,
You broke into the beaten way:
Plied loom or awl like other men
And learned to love the guinea's chink.
Oh, recreant sires, who doomed me then
To earn so few—with Pen and Ink!

Where it hath fallen the tree must lie.
'Tis over-late for ME to roam.

Yet the caged bird who hears the cry

Of his wild fellows fleeting home

May feel no sharper pang than mine, Who seem to hear, whene'er I think, Spate in the stream and wind in pine Call me to quit dull Pen and Ink.

For then the spirit wandering,

That sleeps within the blood, awakes;

For then the summer and the spring

I fain would meet by streams and lakes.

But ah, my birthright long is sold,

But custom chains me, link on link,

And I must get me, as of old,

Back to my tools, to Pen and Ink.

A. LANG.

*CO*ΟΥ*ΤΕ*ΟΥΤS.

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ON THE ANTIQUITY OF JESTS

