Ino The Brown from the author

THREE

VERY INTERESTING

# LETTERS,

(TWO IN CURIOUS RHYME)

BY THE CELEBRATED POETS

Clare, Cowper, and Bird.

PRINTED VERBATIM

FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPTS.

WITH AN APPENDIX.

ONLY 25 COPIES PRINTED.

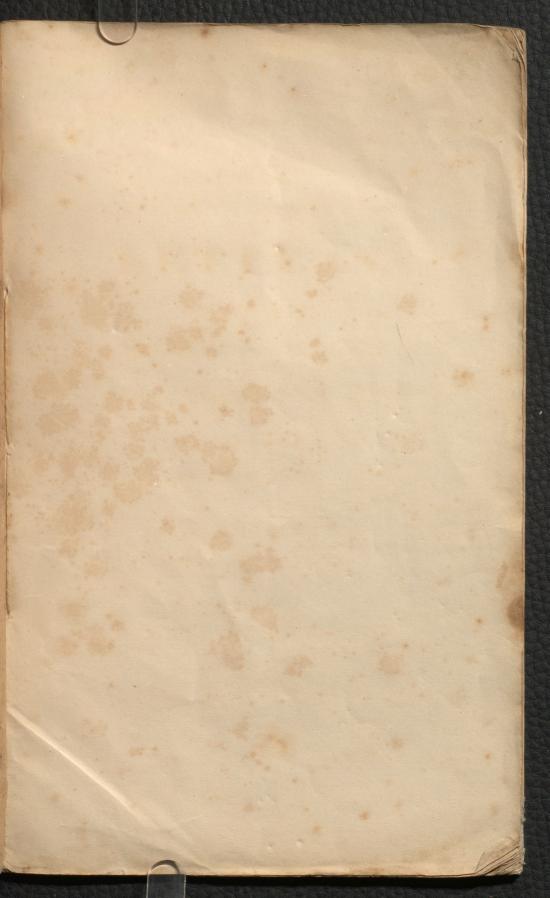
GREAT TOTHAM, ESSEX:

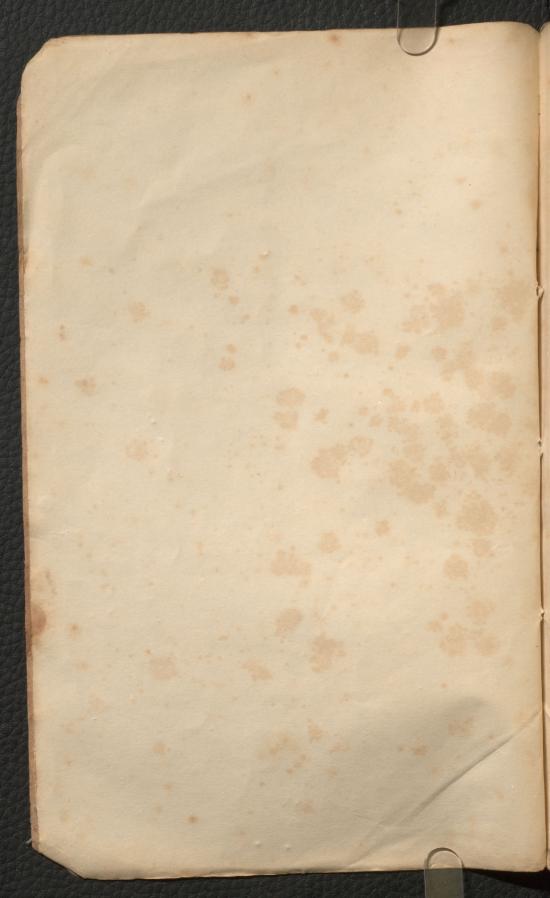
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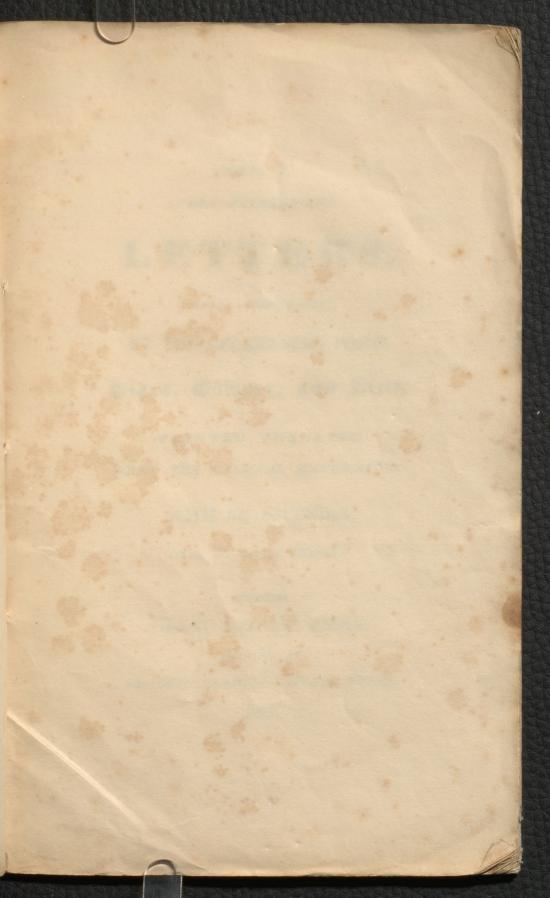
CHARLES CLARK'S PRIVATE PRESS.

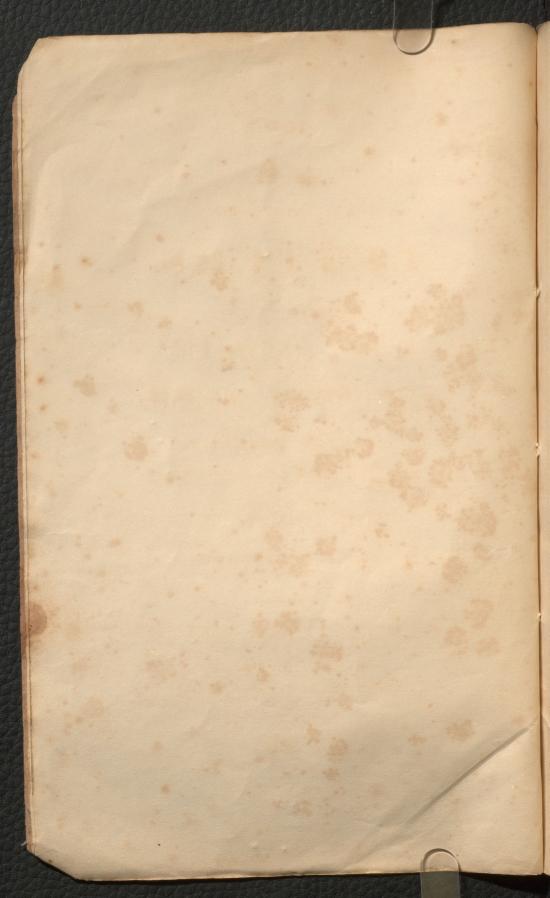
1837.

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#### THREE

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1837.

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VERY INTERESTING

# LETTHES.

(awa in contions survis)

BY THE CELEBRATED POETS Clark, Commer, and Mirb.

PRINTED VERBATING.

WITH AN APPENDIX.

GREAT TOTHAW, ESSEX:
PROTES IN
CHARLES CLARKS PRIVATE PRESS.
1837.

#### LETTER

WRITTEN BY

## John Clare, the Poet.

Helpstone near Market Deeping August 1824

DEAR INSKIP

YOU will have drawn some unpleasant pictures of my carlesness and seeming neglect in not answering your letter ere now but the fact is easily explained I have been in London 3 months for the benefit of better advice than the country affords and I am sorry to acknowledge that I feel very little better I have been in a terrible state of ill health six months gradually declining and I verily believe that it will upset me at last I was taken in a sort of appoplectic fit and have never had the right use of my faccultys since a numbing pain lies constantly about my head and an acking void at the pit of my stomach keeps sinking me away weaker and weaker I returned home last saturday were I found your letter and I have attempted to answer it as soon and as well as I can I shall only be at home for a few weeks to try the air to be sure if it improves my spirits I shall remain if not the next thing for me

#### LETTER

AST NUTSTEEN BY

## John Clare, the Live

Helpstolin nam Bucket Danging Migrat 1893

DEAR INSERT

of my curiesness and seeming neglect in not anspering jour letter era now but the flux is easily explained a have beened beened beened and the flux of the baselt of live, the advice than the country afferds and I am save to ter advice than the country afferds and I am save to makes wiedge that I field very lively better I have been an a terrible state of ill incide his mostles gradually declining and I went be not distributed to the save meant declining and I went be not distributed in a specification in and meant in a sort of approphenic attention and an action in grant flux in the right use of my mountles since a country ling pain his constanting when my head and an acting meanty weaker and weaker and weaker and weaker and weaker and weaker and the air of my attentional act assuming weaker and weaker and the air of my the nit to be save if him meanty is seen and as a city the off as I could chall only by at home for a few weeks to tay the nit to be save if himproves any are saints I shall remain if the next thing for me any any saints I shall remain if the next thing for me

to try is salt water I would have calld on you at Shefford if I had been able but I can get no were by myself I am so ill still I think I feel better since I got home and if I get better I will write you word of my remaining here were I shall be heartily happy to see you but visiting a sick man has no sort of temptation in it as I can do nothing with Sir John Barly corn now I have often thought of our London Evening and I have often thought of writing to you-poor Bloomfield I deeply regret now its too late I had made up my resolution to see him this summer but if he had been alive I shoud have been dissapointed by this cold blooded lethargy of a disease what it is I cannot tell it even affects my senses very much by [at] times\*\_\_\_\_ I heard of Bloomfields death and it shockd my feelings poor fellow you say right when you exclaim "who would be a poet" I sincerely lovd the man and I admire his Genius and readily (nav gladly) acknowledge his superiority as a Poet in my opinion he is the most original poet of the age and the greatest Pastoral Poet England ever gave birth too I am no Critic but I al-

<sup>\*</sup> In the Athenaum of October 14, 1837, thirteen years after this was written, it will be observed, there is the following announcement relating to Clare:—"We grieve to hear that poor John Clare, the Northamptonshire poet, is at this moment confined in the lunatic asylum at York, where he was sent about three months since,—and it is much feared that his case is hopeless."

in the inherence of October 14 1937, thirteen grows after this was written, grant the observed, there is the following and concernent relating to them:—"We greet to hear that hour dollar there has worther problem; poet, it at this nomen conduct in the humile oxythm at Tota, where he was sent about three months since—and it is much forced that his easy is horseless."

ways feel and judge for my self I shall never forget the pleasures which I felt in first reading his poems little did I think then that I shoud live to become so near an acquaintance with the Enthusiastic Giles and miss the gratification of seeing him at last-I am grievd to hear of his family misfortunes were are the icy hearted pretenders that came forward once as his friends-but its no use talking this is always the case-neglect is the only touchstone by which true genius is proved look at the every day scribblers I mean those nonsense ginglings calld poems "as plenteous as blackberrys" published every now and then by subscription and you shall find the list belarded as thickly with my Lord this and my Lady tother as if they were the choicest geniuses nature ever gave birth too while the true poet is left to struggle with adversity and buffet along the stream of life with the old notorious companions of genius Dissapointment and poverty tho they leave a name behind them that posterity falls heir too and Works that shall give delight to miriads on this side eternity well the world is as it is and we cannot help it - I wrote 3 Sonnets to his Memory but I did not feel satisfied with them if I ever get better I mean to write a Monody whose only reccomdation perhaps will be its sincerity ---- as soon as

I am more able I will write to you again in the mean time if you feel inclined to answer this letter I shall feel glad to hear from you —— I heard that Bloomfields Remains was just published as I left London but I was so ill that I coud make no enquirys about them I wish them success and

I remain sincerely yours &c &c

#### JOHN CLARE.

Mr Thomas Inskip Watchmaker Shefford near Biggleswade Bedds August 10.

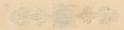


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I remain sincerely yours &c &c

JOHN CLARE.

Mr Thomas toskip Fakkonsker Chefford near Rigglesunde Bedds August 10.



#### RHYMING LETTER

WRITTEN BY

## William Cowper, the Poet.

MY VERY DEAR FRIEND,

I am going to send, what when you have read, you may scratch your head, and say, I suppose, there's nobody knows, whether what I have got, be Verse or not,—by the tune and the time, it ought to be rhime, but if it be, did you ever see, of late or of yore, such a ditty before? the thought did occurr, to me and to her, as Madam and I, did walk not fly, over hills and dales, with spreading sails, before it was dark to Weston Park.

The news at Oney,\* is little or noney, but such as it is, I send it—viz. Poor Mr. Peace, cannot yet cease, addling his head, with what you said, and has left parish church, quite in the lurch, having almost swore, to go there no more.

Page and his Wife, that made such a strife, we met them twain, in Dry lane, + we gave them the wall, and that was all. For Mr. Scot, we have seen him not,

<sup>\*</sup> Olney? † There is a deficiency in the measure here.

### RHYMING LETTER

THE MERCHANIA

## TELLIAM Coluper, the Poet,

MY VERY DEAR FRIEND,

I am going to send, what when you have read, you may soratch your head, and say, I suppose, there's nobedy knows, whether what I have got, he Vetse or not,—by she tune and the time, it ought to be thine, but it it be, did you ever see, of iste or of yors, such a ditty before? the thought did occurr, to me and to her, as ithdum and I, and walk not ity, over hills and dales, with spreading sails, helive it was dark to Weston Park.

The news at Oner, is little or noner, but such as it is, I send it—viz. Poor Mr. Peace, cannot yet ceuse, addling his head, with what you said, and has left partsh church, outte in the lurch, having almost swore, to go there no more.

Page and the Wife, that made such a strife, me met them tunin, in the langer we gave them the wall, and that was all. For Mr. Serve we have seen from unit,

et Olney? + Pliere i a desclorer in the meanue bere,

except as he pass'd, in a wonderfull haste, to see a friend, in silver end. Mrs. Jones proposes, ere July closes, that she and her Sister, and her Jones Mister, and we that are here, our course shall steer, to dine in the spinney, but for a guinea, if the weather should hold, so hot and so cold, we had better by far, stay where we are, for the grass there grows, while nobody mows, (which is very wrong) so rank and long, that so to speak, 'tis at least a week, if it happen to rain, ere it dries again. I have writ 'CHARITY,' not for popularity, but as well as I could, in hopes to do good. And if the Review'r, should say to be sure, the Gentleman's Muse, wears Methodist shoes, you may know by her pace, and talk about grace, that she and her bard, have little regard, for the tastes and fashions, and ruling passions, and hoyd'ning play, of the modern day, and though she assume, a borrow'd plume, and now and then wear, a tittering air, 'tis only her plan, to catch if she can, the giddy and gay, as they go that way, by a production, on a new construction, and has baited her trap, in hopes to snap, all that may come, with a sugar plumb, his Opinion in this, will not be amiss, 'tis what I intend, my principal end, and if it succeed, and folks should read, 'till a few are brought, to a serious thought, I shall think I am paid, for all I

have said, and all I have done, though I have run, many a time, after a rhime, as far as from hence, to the end of my sense, and by hook or crook, write another book, if I live and am here, another year.

I have heard before, of a room with a floor, laid upon springs, and such like things, with so much art, in every part, that when you went in, you was forced to begin, a minuet pace, with an air and a grace, swimming about, now in now out, with a deal of state, in a figure of eight; without pipe or string, or any such thing. and now I have writ, in a shining fit, what will make you dance, and as you advance, will keep you still, though against your will, dancing away, alert and gay, 'till you come to an end, of what I have penn'd, which that you may do, ere Madam and you, are quite worn out, with digging about, I take my leave, and here you receive, a bow profound, down to the ground, from your humble me. W: C.

P. S.— When I concluded, doubtless you did: think me right, as well you might, in saying what, I said of Scot, and then it was true, but now it is due, to Him to note, that since I wrote, Himself and He, has visited We.

WM. COWPER.

JULY 12, 1781.

The Rev. John Newton.

here said, and all I have done, though I have true, many a time, after a chime, as for as from bence, to the end of my sense, and by book of creek, write another book, if I live and an here, another can.

These need before of a role with a stoot, hid apon springs, and such like things, with so unob art, in every part, that when you went in, you was forced to begin, a minuet pace, with an sir and a grave, swimning about, now in now but, with a deal of state, in a ming about, now in now but, with a deal of state, in a fring, and now I have write in a skining, its what will rackeyon dence, and as you adyrane, will keep you such, though again to our will, descoing away, alert and suil, though again to our will, descoing away, alert and which that you come in an end, of what I have you'd, went and with diagong about. I take my leave, and there you arceive, a bow profesuid, down to the ground, there you arceive, a bow profesuid, down to the ground.

We conversely a show profesuid, down to the ground.

P. S.—When I concluded, doubtless you did:
think me right, as well you might, in saying what, I
said of Scot, and then it was rue, but now it is due,
to Him to note, that since! wrote, Elinself and He,
has vaited We.

J. M. COWPER.

.1801 21 v.16t

The Rost Asks Absolute

#### RHYMING LETTER

WRITTEN BY

## James Bird, the Poet.

DEAR SIR,

I must think you are one who can well make a pun; and I find at this time that you're given to rhyme; and I hope, in due season, you're given to reason, - as that, you will find, is of use to the mind, when you soar up the mountain by Helicon's fountain, where the Muses are fair, if you e'er find them there; but some people ramble, and up the mount scramble, but ne'er reach the top, so down again drop in the fountains's cold flow, deep to Lethe below-where they dare not aspire to awaken the Lyre, nor come out of the water, like Cœlus's daughter-the laughing young goddess without shift or bodice !- But what has fair Venus to do now between us? since I sat down to answer, as soon as I can, Sir, your punning Epistle, which tickled my whistle; I laugh'd till my thorax was sore, - till with Borax and fine Narbonne honey, which cost little money, - with these, and a feather, commingled together, the soft application soon stopt inflammation, and then, without pain, I perused them

### RHYMING LETTER

VE MENTELEW

### Anmes Wird, the Most.

DEAR SER.

I must think you are one who can well make a punt; and I show in this time that you're given to rigone; and I show in due season, you're given to reason—as itak you will find, is of use totthe mind, when you seer up the mountain by Helicy's sountain, when you seer up the mountain by Helicy's sountain, where the shows are fair, if you e'er and them there's our same people rample, and up the mount arountle, but ne'er reach the top; so show assing drop in the fountains's cald flow, deep no Lethe scient—where they done not aspire to make its live, wor come out of the water, like Colins's daughter—the laughing young goddess without shift or bodice!— But what to answer, as soon as I can ship the water as soon as I can ship these, which these, and a farther which cost little money,—with these, and a farther which cost little money,—with these, and a farther inflammation, and then, without pair, I perused them inflammation, and then, without pairs, I perused them

again; both the long punning Letter, and, what was yet better, the verses on Totham— (I'm glad I have got 'em!) they prove Mr. Clark does not rhyme in the dark; but if led by the light of the Muses aright, he may leave earth's dull asses and soar up Parnassus, and live on Ambrosia, with joy and composure, and feel misery never—for ever and ever!

To prevent more confusion, I beg, in conclusion, to thank you for lauding my fair 'Vale of Slaughden,' and 'Machin,' and others, that rank as his brothers!

Farewell! though unknown to you, I must candidly own to you, that I always shall feel a regard for your weal; and conclude in the end, your poetical friend, in sickness and health, destitution and wealth, both in deed and in word,

Your's sincerely,

JAMES BIRD.

YOXFORD, SUFFOLK, MAY 3, 1833.

Mr. Charles Clark, Great Totham Hall.



\*

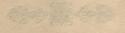
egain; both the long pursing Leiter, and, what was set better, the verses on Torray—(I'm glad I have got 'end.) they prove him Clark does not rhyme in the dark; but fixed by the high of the Muses oright, he may leave carth's dail asses and some up Paraessus, and and live on Ambrosia, with joy and composure, and their masers never—for ever and ever!

To prevent more confusion, I beg, in conclusion, to thank you for tending var for 'Vale of Slaughden.' and 'Machin,' and others, that rank as his brothers! Forever! though infrarent to you, I must randidly own to you, that I should had nell arregard for your west, and conclude in the tend, your position and enablate in sixtures and brothly destination and scaling your median and sending

Tour's sincerely,

oxfore, Torrors, May S. 1828.

Mr. Charles Chark, Great Tollian Stall.



## Appendir.

The following familiar and sportive Epistle, in verse, addressed to a friend by Clare, in his youthful days, appears such a pleasing contrast to the preceding one of his, written in 1824, that it is here presented entire, from his first volume of 'Poems,' published in 1821.

### FAMILIAR EPISTLE.

#### TO A FRIEND.

"Friendship, peculiar boon of heav'n,
The noblest mind's delight and pride;
To men and angels only giv'n,
To all the lower world denied:
Thy gentle flows of guiltless joys
On fools and villains ne'er descend,
In vain for thee the tyrant sighs,
And hugs a flatterer for a friend."

JOHNSON.

This morning, just as I awoken,
A black cloud hung the south unbroken;
Thinks I, just now we'll have it soakin':
I rightly guess'd.
'Faith! glad were I to see the token;
I wanted rest.

And, 'fex! a pepp'ring day there's been on't,
But caution'd right with what I'd seen on't,
Keeping at home has kept me clean on't;
Ye know my creed:
Fool-hardy work, I ne'er was keen on't—
But let's proceed.

### .vionanuR

In following families and sportive Upictle, in versa, addressed to a resout by chars, in his youthful days, appears one or pleasing contract to the presenting one of its, reallies in 1894, that Was hone greenied ratios, resulting the first volume of a freeze published in 1893.

### FAMILIAN EPISTER.

MANUAL A OF

resentation need for book of hear'n,
the nation in angle of a slightened pride;
to need and angle of a giving.
to not the torse marks densed;
the results flow of and flow joys.
The same for the transfers,
In same for the second.
And have as the a farm algebra.
And have as the a farm algebra.

The morning deal as The older

A black closed mark the south enterties;

Ablack is souther as a section.

Being guess to be the first guess the following the souther that the first the souther that the souther

And, inc. a penelime day there's seen only. The continue if the seen only.

The content to have her tent me clear only.

To know any excell:

To book a work, I make was been only.

Fool-hards work, I make was been only.

I write to keep from mischief merely,
Fire-side comforts 'joying cheerly;
And, brother chip, I love ye dearly,
Poor as ye be!
With honest heart and soul, sincerely;
They're all to me.

This scrawl, mark thou the application,
Though hardly worth thy observation,
Meaneth an humble invitation
On some day's end:
Of all ragg'd-muffins in the nation,
Thou art the friend.

I've long been aggravated shocking,
To see our gentry folks so cocking:
But sorrow's often catch'd by mocking,
The truth I've seen;
Their pride may want a shoe or stocking,
For like has been.

Pride's power's not worth a roasted onion:
I'd's lief be prison-mouse wi' Bunyan,
As I'd be king of our dominion,
Or any other;
When shuffled through—it's my opinion,
One's good as t'other.

Nor would I gi'e, from off my cuff,
A single pin for all such stuff:
Riches—rubbish! a pinch of snuff
Would dearly buy ye;
Who's got ye, keeps ye, that's enough:
I don't envy ye.

I write to keep from misellot merely;
Fire-side conforts joying cheerly;
And, brother chip, I love we dearly;
Poor as we be!
With honest haver and soul, sincerely;
They're all to me.

This sense, muck thou the application. Though he are worth the discount of the second frame of the sense.

On some day's end:
Of all rage demonstration the nation,
There are the friend.

I se loss been structured shocking.
To see our very falles so conking:
But sarrows after estend by mocking.
Their male can vert a shor or stocking.
Their male can verif a shor or stocking.
You like has been.

Plate because is not easign a constant union:
I'd has he action assesses of Manyan,
As I'd he king at one doubles,
On my action;
When shedled chooses—It's my opinion.
Ones, good as Fother.

The monical offer them at my colf, it clients study and a colf of the colf of

If fate's so kind to let's be doing,
That's—just keep cart on wheels a going;
O'er my half-pint I can be crowing
As well's another:
But when there's this and that stands owing,
O curse the bother!

For had I money, like a many,
I'd balance, even to a penny.
Want! thy confinement makes me scranny:
That spirit's mine,
I'd sooner gi'e than take from any;
But Worth can't shine.

O Independence! oft I bait ye;
How blest I'd be to call ye matey!
Ye fawning, flattering slaves I hate ye:
Mad, harum-scarum!
If rags and tatters under-rate me,
Free still I'll wear 'em.

But hang all sorrows, now I'll bilk 'em;
What's past may go so: time that shall come,
As bad, or worse, or how it will come,
I'll ne'er despair;
Poor as I am, friends shall be welcome
As rich men's are.

So from my heart, old friend, I'll greet ye:
No outside brags shall ever cheat ye;
Wi' what I have, wi' such I'll treat ye;
Ye may believe me;
I'll shake your rags whene'er I meet ye,
If ye deceive me.

If there's so kind to be a bo doing,

"Just's—just be operat on wheels a going;
Our my half-plut I can be crowing
As well's another;
But when there's this and that stands owing,
O outer the bother!

For har I money, then a many,
I'd balance, even to appears.
I'd an 'the confinement makes me seromy;
I'd scener gi'e thin take from any;
I'd scener gi'e thin take from any;
I'd scener gi'e thin take from any;

e of the Louisburgani. Of the state of the sold wolf to the state of the sold wolf to the sold wolf to the sold wolf to the sold wolf to the sold wolf the sold to the sold to the sold the sold to th

Find that a past they go so; thus that abalf come, I have a past they go so; thus that abalf come, as had, or warse, or how it will come, I'll he or decesiv;

Poor as I am, Divide shall be welcome.

Resich near's are.

So floss my pract, old relead, I'll greet to:
No outside brace shall ever obent ye;
Wi what I have, of such I'll treat ye;
Le may believe ma;
Fil shake your rays where'er I meet ye,
If ye descive me.

So mind ye, friend, what's what, I send it:
My letter's plain, and plain I'll end it:
Bad's bad enough, but worse won't mend it;
So I'll be happy,
And while I've sixpence left I'll spend it
In cheering nappy.

A hearty health shall crown my story:—
Dear, native England! I adore ye;
Britons, may ye with friends before ye
Ne'er want a quart,
To drink your king and country's glory
Wi' upright heart!

#### POSTSCRIPT.

I've oft meant tramping o'er to see ye;
But, d—d old Fortune, (God forgi'e me!)
She's so cross-grain'd and forked wi' me,
Be e'er so willing,
With all my jingling powers 'tint i' me
To scheme a shilling.

And Poverty, with cursed rigour,
Spite of industry's utmost vigour,
Dizens me out in such a figure
I'm 'sham'd being seen;
'Sides my old shoon, (poor Muse, ye twig her,)
Wait roads being clean.

Then here wind-bound till Fate's conferr'd on't,
I wait ye, friend; and take my word on't,
I'll, spite of fate, scheme such a hoard on't,
As we won't lack:
So no excuses shall be heard on't.
Yours, RANDOM JACK.

So mind ye, friend, what's what, I send it:
My letter's plain, and plain I'll end it:
Bad's had amongle, but were won't mend it;
So I'll be happy.
And while I've sixpence left I'll spend it.
In checater manny.

A bearty health shall crown my story:

Dear, native fingle of 1 adms yo;
Britons, may we with friends before yo
As'ce went a quart,
To drick your king said density's glory
Will apright heart 1

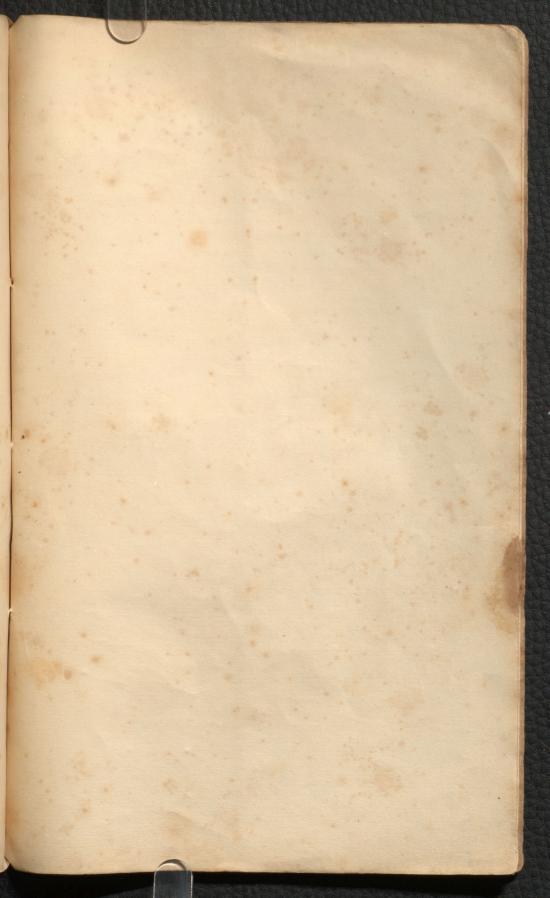
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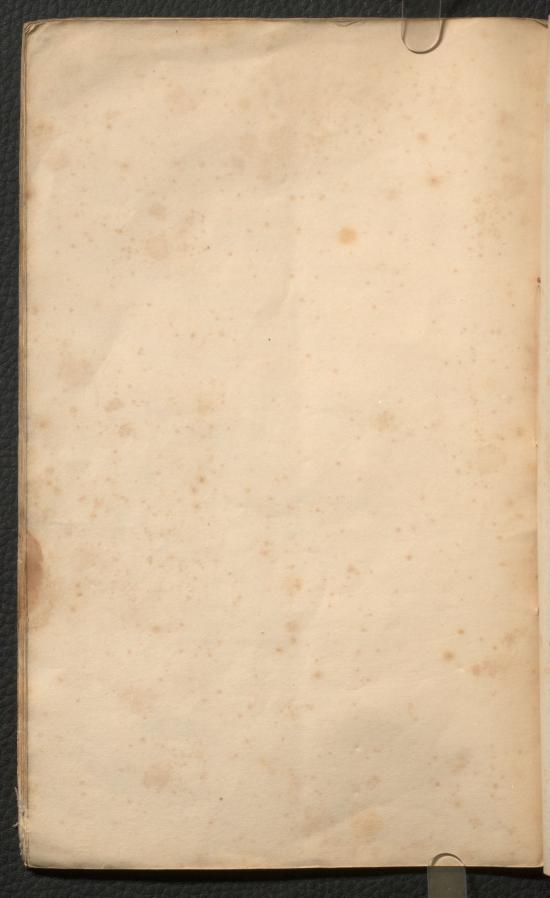
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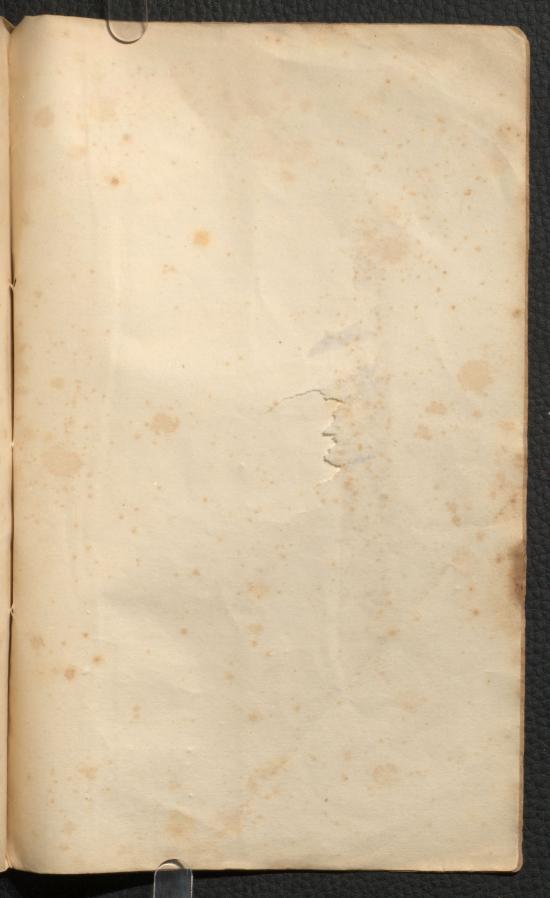
And Poresty with numerical part,
State of industry's discourt vigous,
Obsers me out in such a figure
I'm 'chast'd refer accura
Since my old shown, (poor lipse, yetall bar,)
Titles old shown, oren, oren,

Then have and shured till Tereis realizer'd on to wait to the to the design of the total of the space and a board on't the space of the tereis on the tereis on the tereis on the tereis on the tereis of the tereis

SERRE ETANTES METALES SERRADO DA OUTAGOS CHARTOT CAURA









## EPSOM RACES

A Poem,

COMIC, PUNNING, AND RE

BY THOMAS HOOD, ESQ.

THE YOUNGER.

THREE SHILLINGS,

