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Title: Four Hundred Humorous Illustrations, Vol. 1 (of 2)

Illustrator: George Cruikshank

Release date: December 15, 2013 [EBook #44431] Most recently updated: May 2, 2018

Language: English

Credits: Produced by David Widger (This file was produced from images generously made available by The Internet Archive)

*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK FOUR HUNDRED HUMOROUS ILLUSTRATIONS, VOL. 1 (OF 2)

FOUR HUNDRED HUMOROUS ILLUSTRATIONS

Volume I

By George Cruikshank

With Portrait and Biographical Sketch

Second Edition

London

Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent & Co Glasgow

Marge Lonitschants

FOUR HUNDRED

HUMOROUS ILLUSTRATIONS

GEORGE CRUIKSHANK

With Portrait and Biographical Sketch SECOND EDITION

LONDON SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, HAMILTON, KENT & CO GLASGOW: THOMAS D. MORISON

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

GEORGE CRUIKSHANK was born in London on the 27th of September, 1792. His parents were of Scotch nationality. The father, namely, Isaac Cruikshank, was an artist by profession, having considerable skill in watercolour painting and etching. The mother was a Miss Macnaughten, of Perth, a *protégé* of the Countess of Perth, and the possessor of a small sum of money. She was a person of energetic temper and strong will, and so thrifty that by saving she added considerably to her original pecuniary possession. She was also careful to bring up her children in a pious manner, being, along with them, a regular attendant at the Scotch Church in Crown Court, Drury Lane.

The couple took up house in Duke Street, Bloomsbury, where two sons and one daughter were burn. The elder son was born in 1789, named Isaac Robert, and ultimately became an artist of considerable reputation, but of much less originality in character and design than his younger brother. George was born about three years later. In artistic work he struck out in a new line, and although the difference between his work and that of his father and brother was not in every case strongly marked, still it was always sufficient to enable experts to select the productions of the youngest from those of his two seniors, a distinctly new and original vein appearing in them from the first.

While the three children were still quite young, the family removed to No. 117 Dorset Street, Salisbury Square, Fleet Street, where the parents let a portion of the house to lodgers. Here the father continued to work on his plates, while his wife coloured them by hand, soon, however, obtaining help in that respect from her sons. The boys went to school at Mortlake, and afterwards to Edgeware, but not for long, so that they owed little to school masters. The elder brother went to sea, and not returning when expected, was supposed to be lost, and mourned for as such. But after three years he suddenly re-appeared, and was welcomed home with joy,—resuming engraving for a livelihood Unfortunately for the family, the father died in 1811 Up to the time of his decease he appears to have had a steady and good business, having produced an immense number of sketches, coloured etchings, engravings, and designs produced in various modes, many of them in connection with the stage. At the time of his father's decease, the oldest son was twenty-two years of age, and George, the second son, nineteen. They were both well-advanced in their

profession, and were quite capable of taking up and prosecuting their father's business connection.

Previous to all this, there is no doubt that George began to draw when he was a mere child. Some of his productions of 1799 are still extant. "George's first playthings," says Mr. Bates "were the needle and the dabber;" but play insensibly merged into work, as he began to assist his hard-worked father. His earliest inclination, it is said, was to go to sea, but his mother opposed this. The earliest job in the way of etching, for which he was employed and received payment, was a child's lottery ticket. This was in 1804, when he was about twelve years of age. in 1805 he made a sketch of Nelson's funeral car, and whimsical etchings of the fashions of the day. His earliest signed work is dated two years later, and represents the demagogue Cobbett going to St. James's. His father's early death threw the lad on his own resources, and he quickly found that he must fight for a place in the world, as Fuseli told him he would have to do for a seat in the Academy. Anything that offered was acceptable—headings for songs and halfpenny ballads, illustrations for chap books, designs for nursery tales, sheets of prints for children—a dozen on the sheet and a penny the lot—vignettes for lottery tickets, rude cuts for broadsides, political squibs—all trivial records but now of the utmost rarity and value.

While still very young, and before his father's decease, young George, with a view to becoming an Academy student, took specimens of his work to Fuseli for his inspection, when that, official told him that he would just have to "fight for his place," and at same time gave him permission to attend the lectures on painting. He attended two of the lectures and then stopped going, as his father held that if he was destined to be an artist he would become one without instruction, so that he never became a real student of that institution, nor had he a regular training in any way, so that his education, both so far as art and ordinary schooling was concerned, was very irregular and deficient. In fact, as a lad and young man he appeared to have been too full of animal spirits and too fond of sight-seeing to settle down to a hard course of study. The goings-on of the two brothers were severely condemned by their pious and strict mother. Occasionally she even went the length of castigating George when he returned home in the small hours from fairs and horse races, or the prize ring, and sometimes not quite sober.

He is described at this early age as filled with a reckless love of adventure, emulating the exploits of Tom and Jerry, with wild companions. His field of observation extended from the foot of the gallows to Greenwich fair, through coal-holes, cider-cellars, cribs, and prize-fighters' taverns, Petticoat Lane, and Smithfield. Its centre was Covent Garden Market, where the young bloods drank, and sang, and fought under the piazzas in those days. Such was pretty much the sort of education the young men had, and luckily George had the sense and talent to turn it all to good account later on with his pencil.

In course of time the artist was firmly established in business, and had numerous patrons among the publishers, some of whom were thriving to a considerable extent through Cruikshank's labours. After numerous isolated sketches, which brought him no small amount of fame, the first considerable series of designs by him appeared in Dr. Syntax's *Life of Napoleon*, consisting of thirty illustrations. Another long series was twenty-three illustrations to Pierce Egan's *Life* in London. As also twenty-seven etchings to Grimm's *Popular Stories*. These were followed by numerous other lengthened series, such as *Mornings at Row Street, Three Courses and a Dessert, Punch and Judy, Gil Blas, My Sketch Book, Scott's Novels, Sketches by Boz, The Omnibus*, and very numerous others. In all, he appears to have produced the illustrations for no fewer than three hundred and twenty volumes, not to speak of an immense number of isolated sketches of all sorts.

In 1847 and 1848 there came from his pencil his first direct and outspoken contribution to the cause of temperance in "The Bottle" and the "Drunkard's Children," although in some of his earlier designs he had satired the prevalent vice of drunkenness; he capped them all, however, in the eight plates of "The Bottle," in which he depicts the terrible downward march of degradation in the tragedy of an entire family, from the easy temptation of "a little drop" to the final murder of the wife. In "The Drunkard's Children," eight more plates, the remorseless moral is continued, the son becomes a thief, and dies in the hulks; the daughter, taking to the streets, ultimately throws herself over Waterloo Bridge. The two works had a great success. Moreover, they were dramatised in eight theatres at once, and were sold by tens of thousands. Hitherto Cruikshank had not been a strict abstainer, but now he became one with all the energy of his nature.

In Cruikshank's later years he made a good many attempts at oil painting, and exhibited quite a number of paintings at the Royal Academy all with more or less success. But the larger and best known of these is the "Worship of Bacchus;" it is a work of inexhaustible detail and invention, and was received by the public with great favour; the size is 7 feet 8 inches high by 13 feet 3 inches long, and it is now in the National Gallery.

However, to return to the affairs of the family. In time the brother Isaac Robert having got married, the whole family removed to King Street, Holborn. Soon afterwards the mother, George, and sister took a house in Claremont Square, Pentonville, at that period partially in the country. Later on, becoming married. George removed to Amwell Street, where he remained for thirty years. He afterwards resided in several suburban localities, but finally settled down at 263 Hampstead Road, where he died on the 1st of February, 1878, and in the following November his remains were finally deposited in the crypt of St. Paul's Cathedral.

In person Cruikshank was a broad-chested man, rather below the middle height, with a high forehead, blue-grey eyes, a hook nose, and a pair of strong whiskers. In his younger days he had been an adept at boxing and all manly sports, as also an enthusiastic volunteer, ultimately becoming lieutenant-colonel of the 48th Middlesex Volunteers. He preserved his energy almost to the last day of his life. Even at eighty he was ready to dance a hornpipe, or sing a song, "he was," says one who knew him well, "a light hearted, merry, jolly old gentleman, full physically of humorous action and impulsive gesture, but in every word and deed a God-fearing, queen-honouring, truth-loving, honest man."

The old school of caricaturists in which the names of Gilray, Rowlandson, Woodward, and Bunbury are most prominent, was noted chiefly for the broad, and in many cases, vulgar treatment of the subjects which were dealt with. The later school of caricaturists, in their mode of treating similar subjects, differed considerably from their predecessors. The leading member of the new school was George Cruikshank. He lived and worked during two generations, and may be considered as the connecting link between the old school and the new. At first Cruikshank to some extent followed Gilray and Rowlandson, but gradually fell off from their style of art, and in its stead produced work of a more serious and more artistic nature, which was the beginning of a new era in the history of caricature. His illustrations to innumerable works are of the highest order, and have made for him an everlasting reputation. **Tables of Contents**

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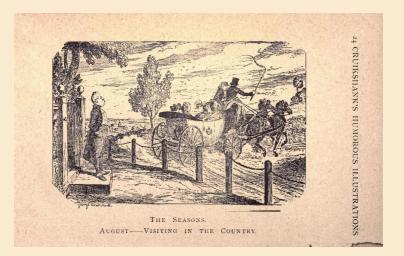


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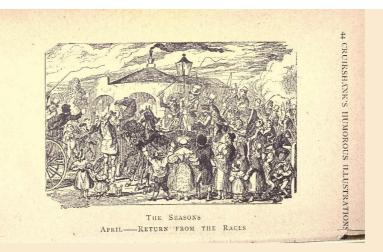




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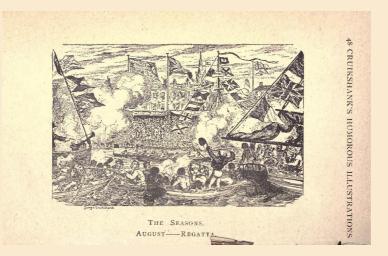
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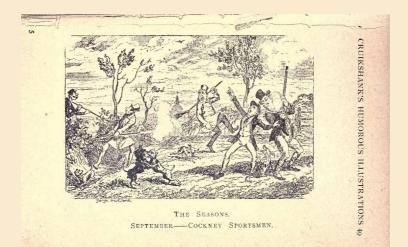






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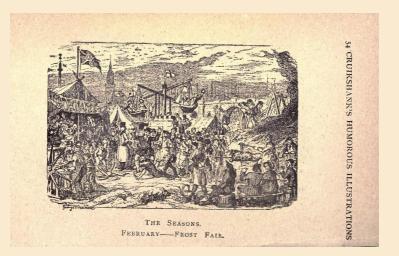




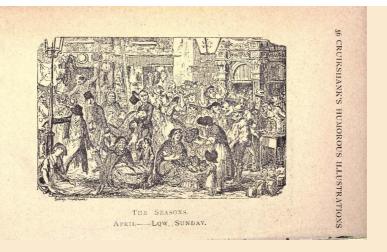




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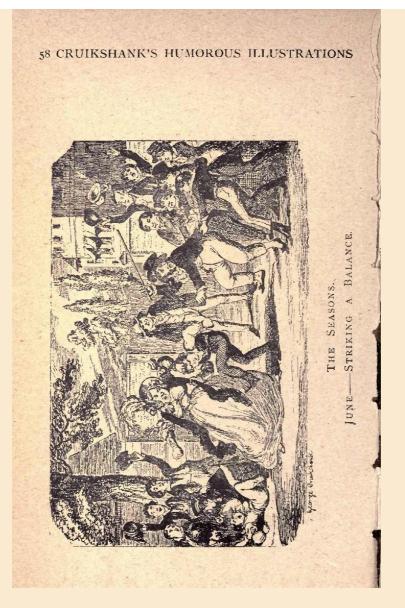


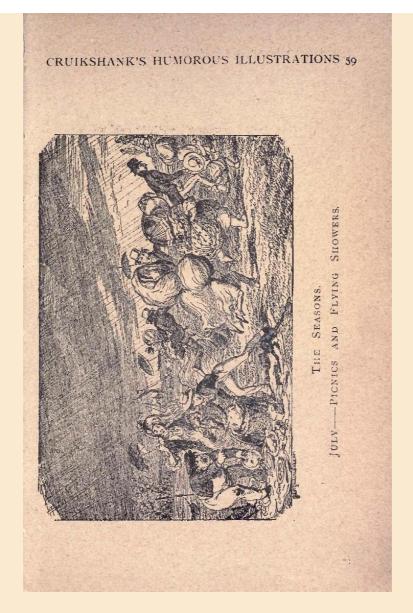




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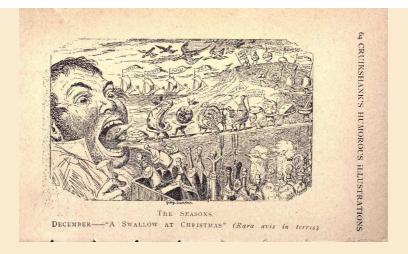




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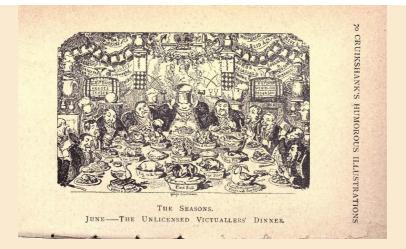




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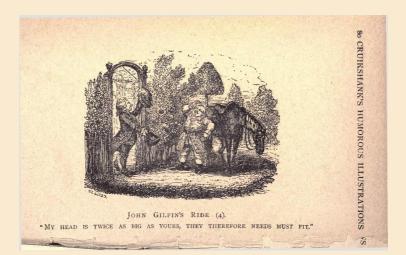
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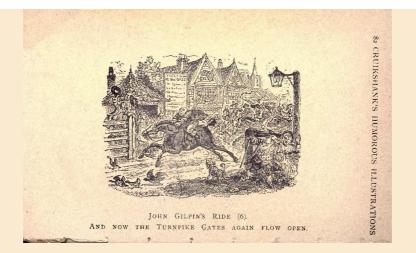




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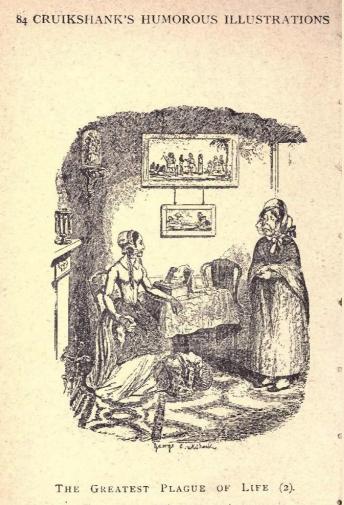




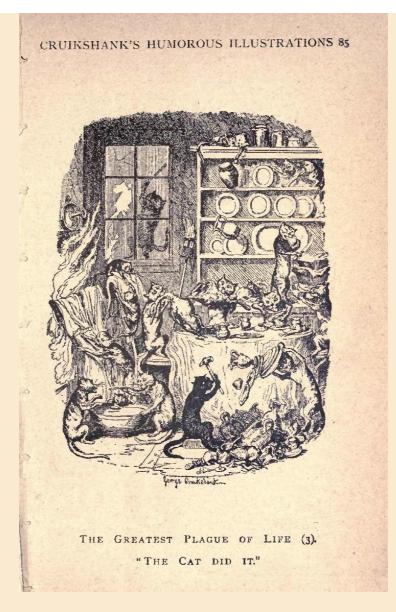


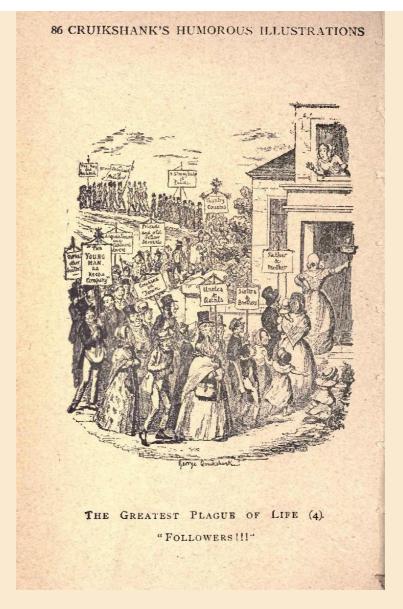
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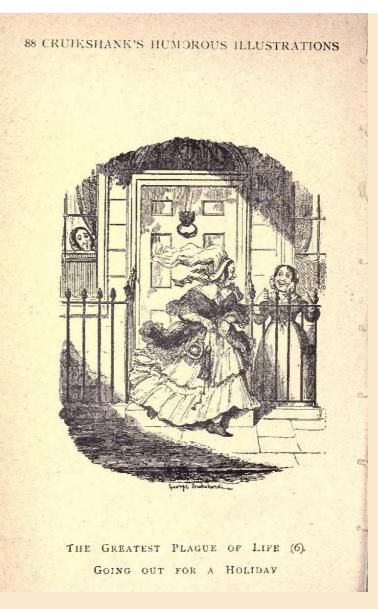


"ARE YOU NOT IRISH?" "OCH! NO MA'AM, I'M CORRNWALL SURE!"

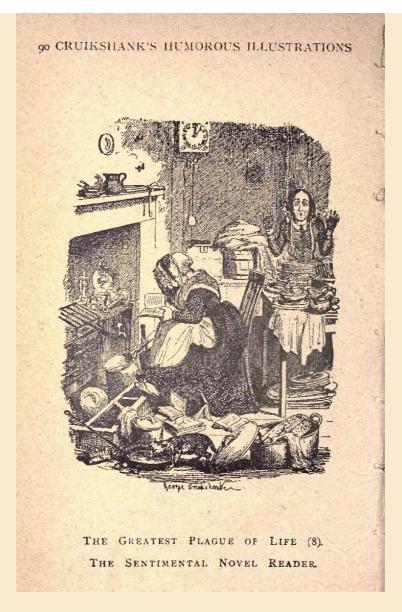


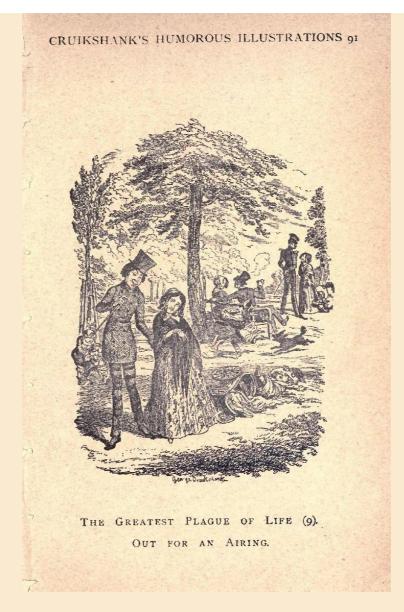


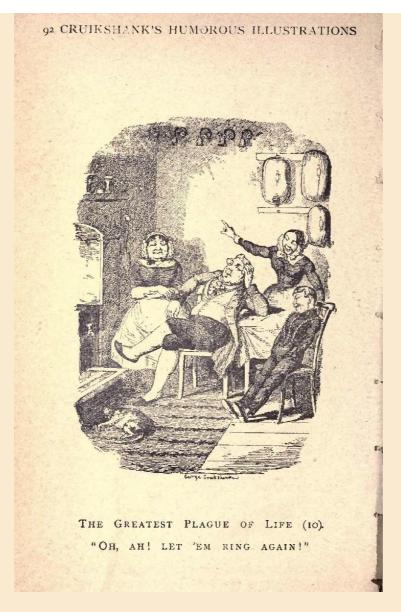


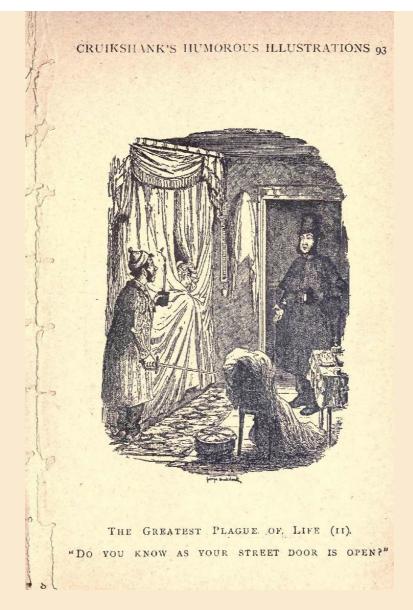


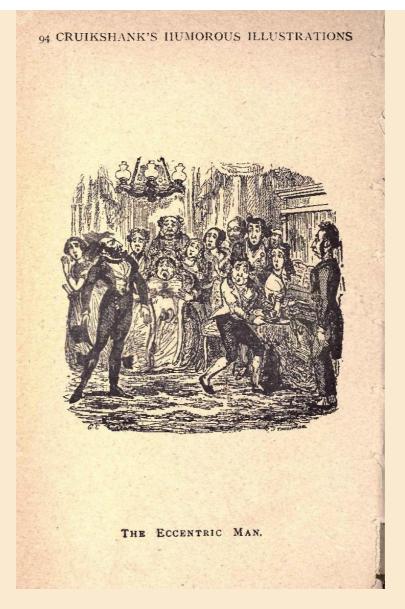




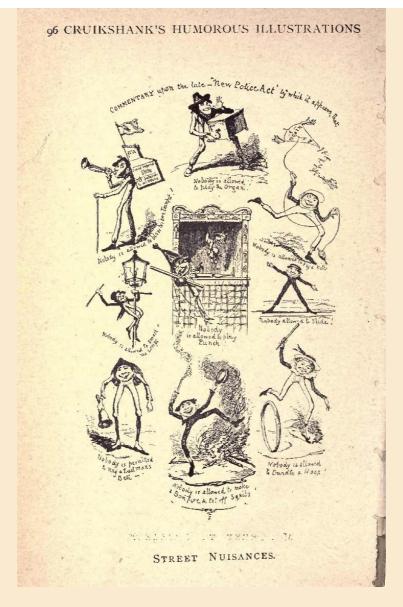


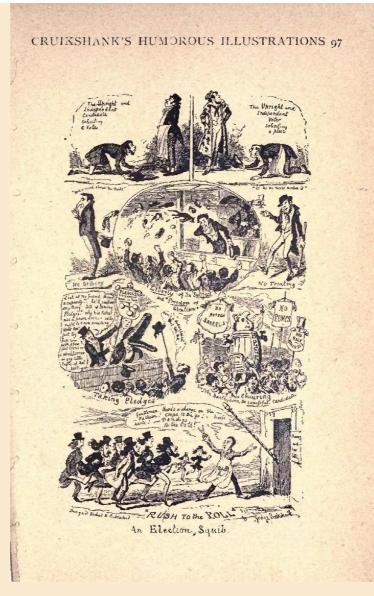


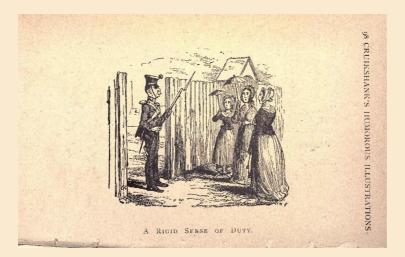












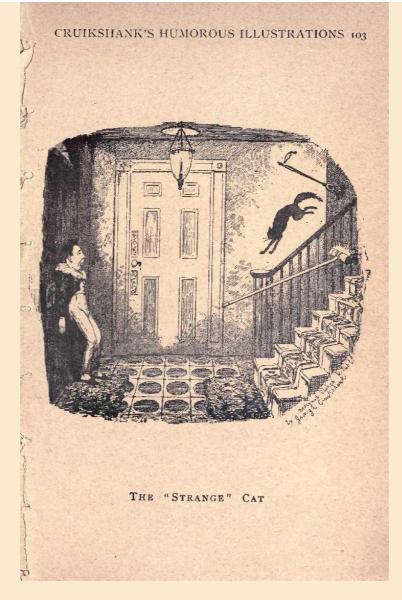


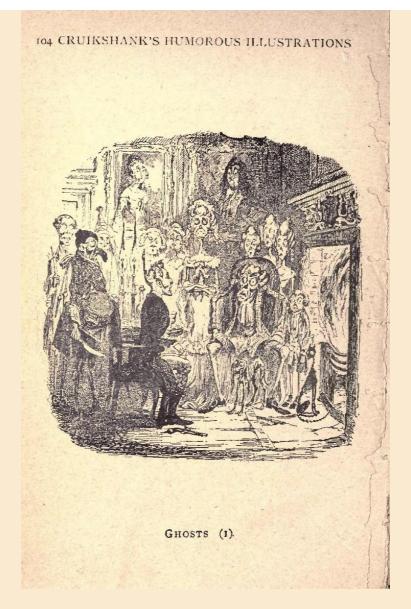
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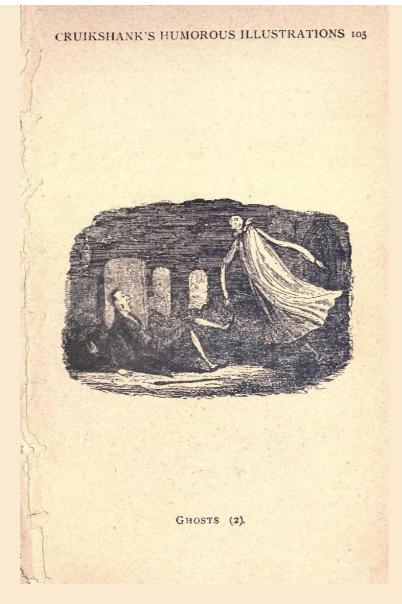






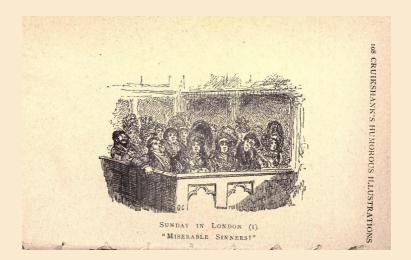












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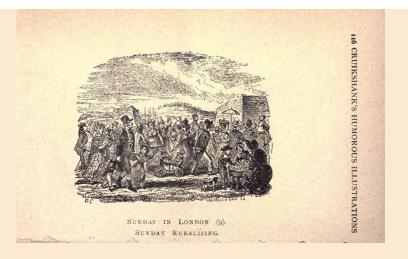




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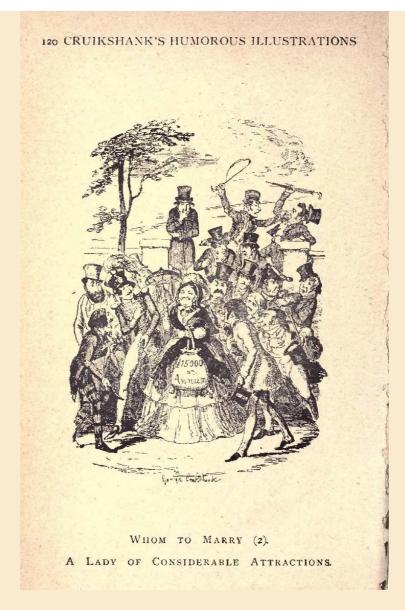


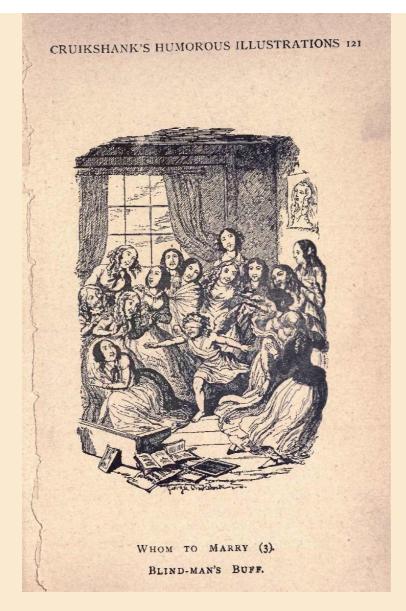
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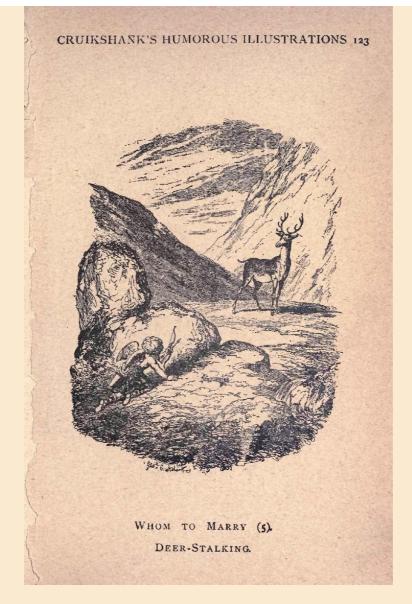


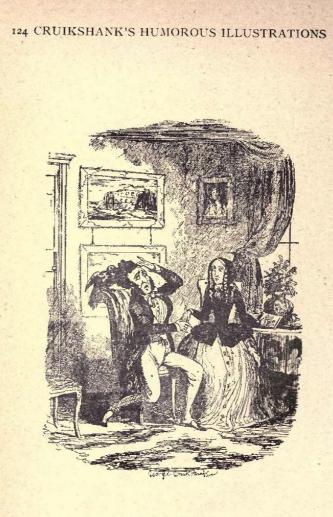




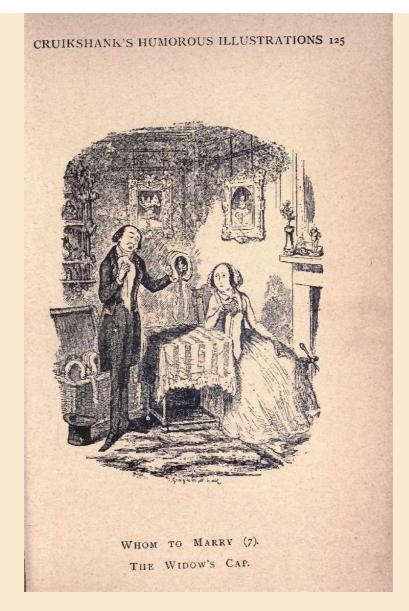




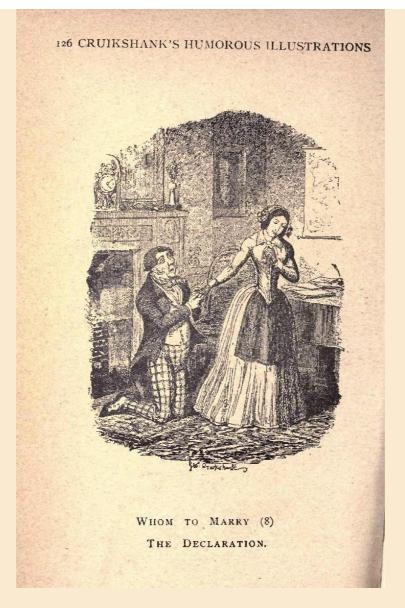




WHOM TO MARRY (6). Awkward for Proposing.

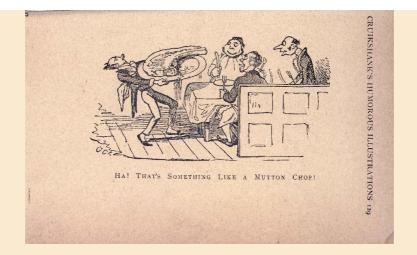


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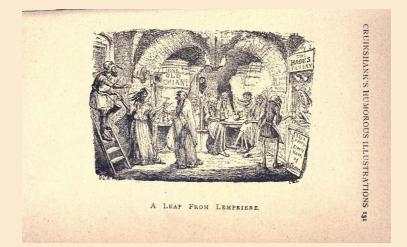


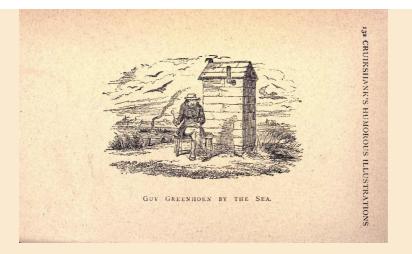




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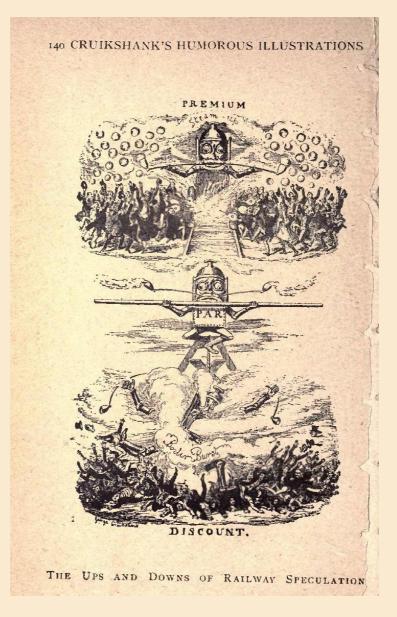






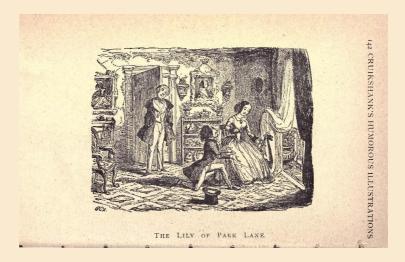


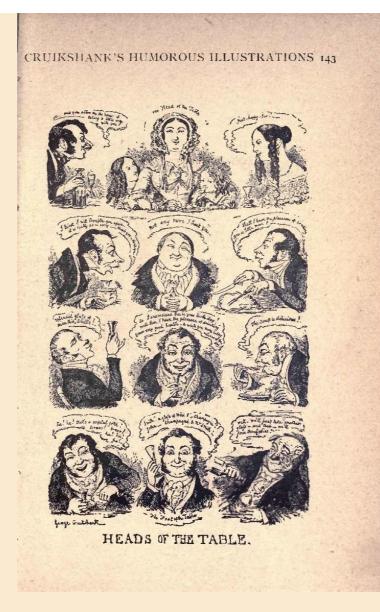
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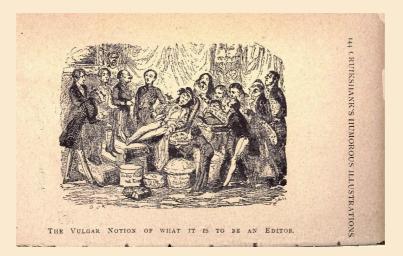




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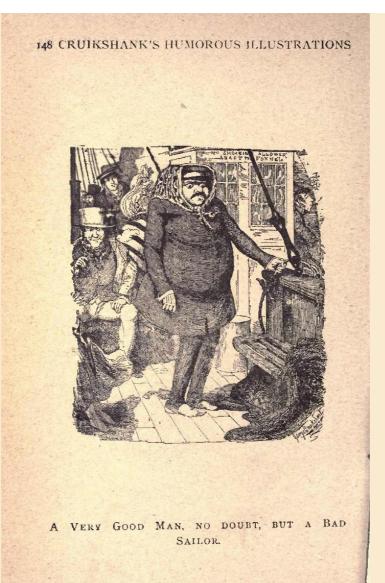




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ON BOARD SHIP.

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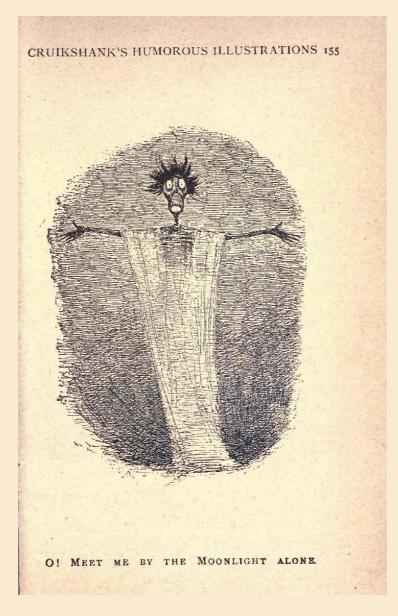






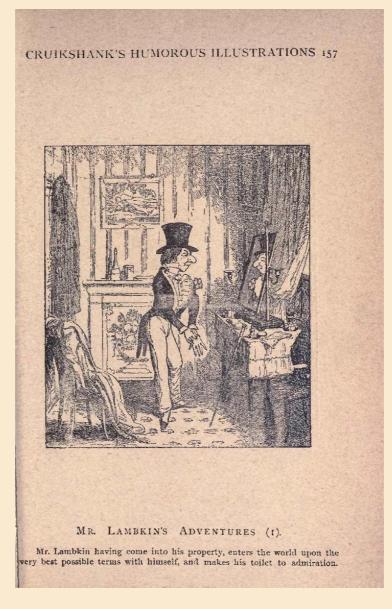


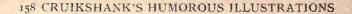
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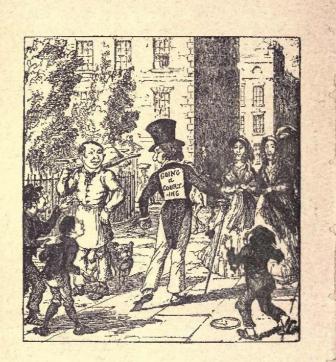




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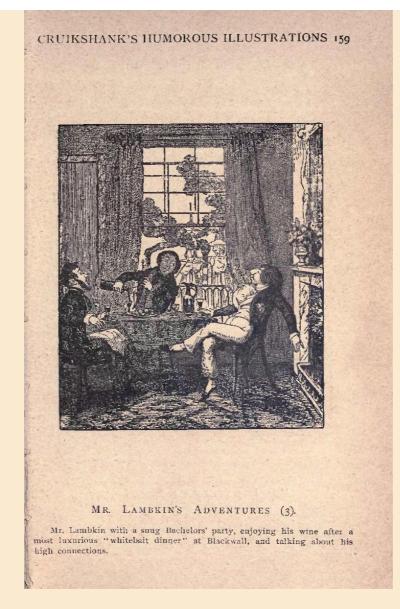


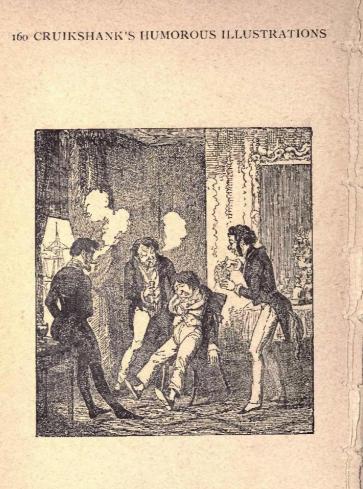


MR. LAMEKIN'S ADVENTURES (2).

Mr. Lambkin sallies forth in all the pride of power, with the secret and amiable intention of killing a certain Lady. Some envious rival makes known this deadly purpose, by means of a placard.

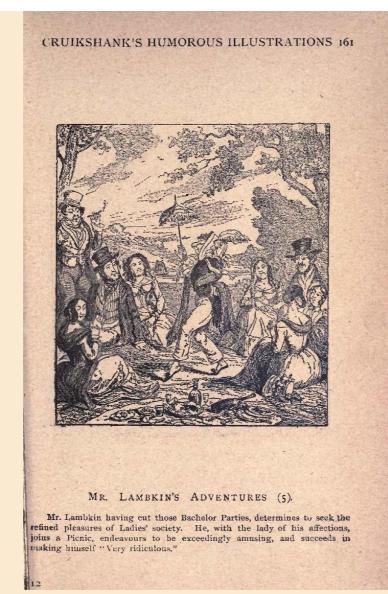


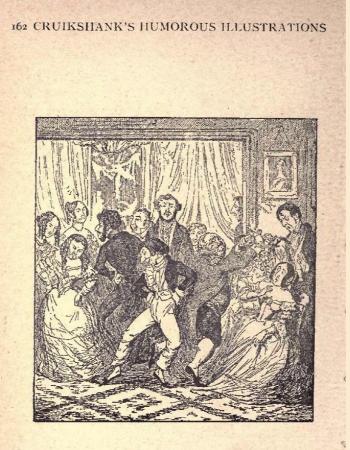




MR. LAMBKIN'S ADVENTURES (4).

Mr. Lambkin suddenly feels rather poorly, something in the "whitebait dinner" having disagreed with him; probably the "water souchy," or that confounded melted butter (couldn't possibly have been the wine). His friends endeavour to relieve him with little Drops of Brandy and large doses of Soda Water.

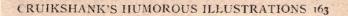


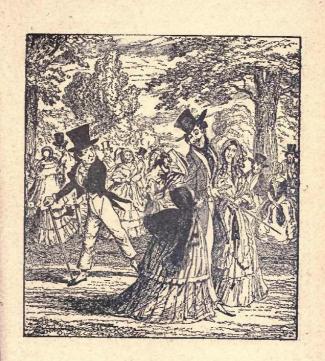


MR. LAMBKIN'S ADVENTURES (6).

Mr. Lambkin, at an evening party, being full of Life and Spirits (or, rather, Wine), gives great offence to the lady of his affections by his Philanderings, and completely ruins his fortunes by dancing the Polka with such violence as to upset poor old John, the coffee. and, indeed, the whole party.

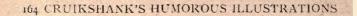
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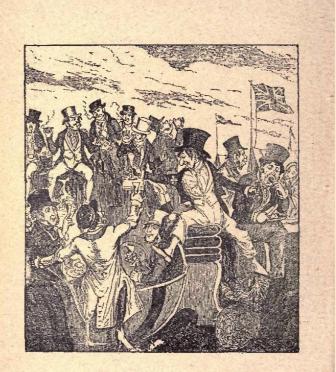




MR LAMBKIN'S ADVENTURES (7).

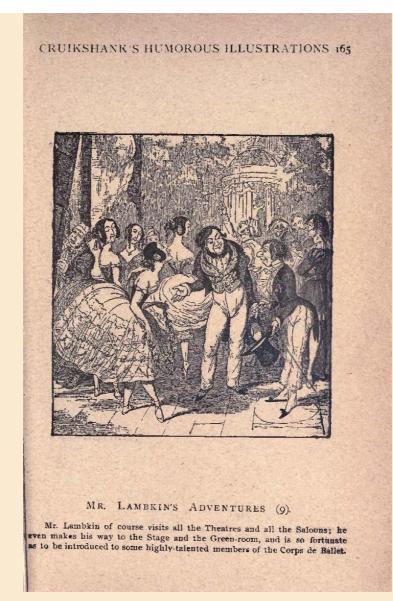
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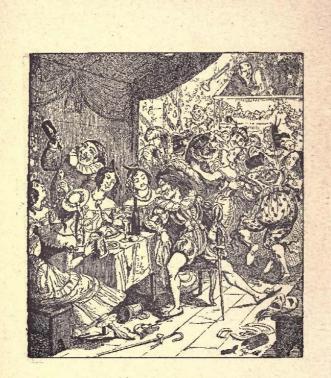




MR. LAMBKIN'S ADVENTURES (8).

After meditating desperate deeds of Duelling, Prussic Acid, Pistols, and Planges in the River, Mr. Lambkin cools down to a quiet supper, a melancholy reverie, and a warm bath at the Hummuns,—The morning sun shines upon him at Epson, where, with the assistance of his friends and Champague, he arrives at such a pitch of excitement, that he determines to live and die a Bachelor.

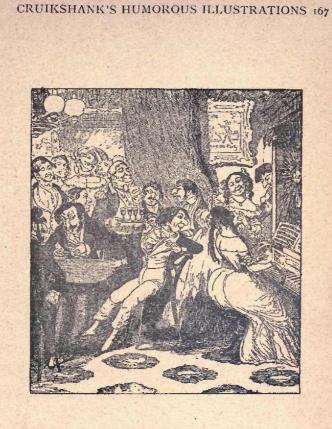




166 CRUIKSHANK'S HUMOROUS ILLUSTRATIONS

MR. LAMBKIN'S ADVENTURES (10).

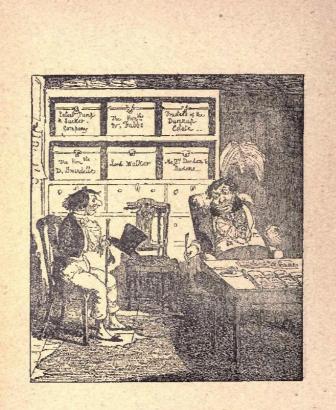
Mr. Lambkin goes to a Masquerade as Don Giovanni, which character he supports to perfection. He falls into the company of certain Shepherdesses who show the native simplicity of their Arcadian manners by drinking porter out of quart pewter mugs. They are delighted with the Don, who adds to the porter a quantity of Champague, which they drink with the same degree of easy elegance as they do the beer.



MR. LAMBKIN'S ADVENTURES (11).

Mr. Lambkin makes some most delightful acquaintance. The Hon. D. Swindelle and his delightful family, his Ma. such a delightful lady!—and his Sisters, such delightful girls!! Such delightful musical parties, such delightful soirces, and such delightful eard parties,—and what makes it all still more delightful is that they are all so highly delighted with Mr. Lambkin.

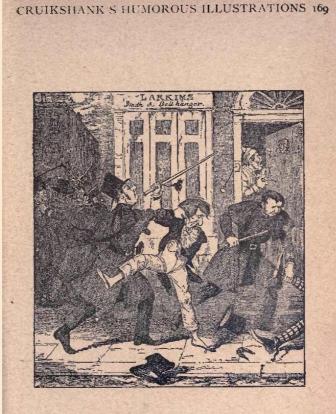
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168 CRUIKSHANK'S HUMOROUS ILLUSTRATIONS

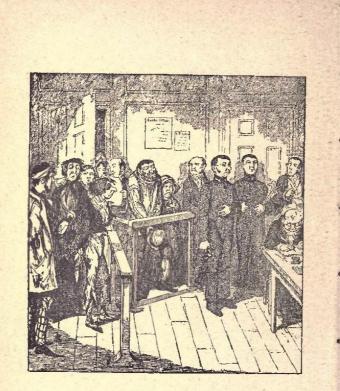
MR LAMBKIN'S ADVENTURES (12)

Mr. Lambkin in a moment of delightful delirium puts his name to some little bits of paper to oblige his very delightful friend the Hon. D. Swindelle, whom he afterwards discovers to be nothing more than a rascally Black leg. He is invited to visit some chambers in one of the small Inus of Court, where he finds himself completely at the mercy of Messrs. Ogre & Nippers, whose demands make an awful hole in his Cheque-book.



MR. LAMBKIN'S ADVENTURES (13).

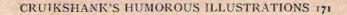
Mr. Lambkin and his friends, after supper at "the rooms," indulge in the usual nocturnal amusements of Gentlemen—the Police officiously interfere with their pastime. Mr. Lambkin, after evincing the noble courage of a Lion, the strength of a Bull, the sagacity of a Fox, the stubbornness of a Donkey, and the activity of a Mountain Cat, is at length overcome by Policeman Smith, A 1.

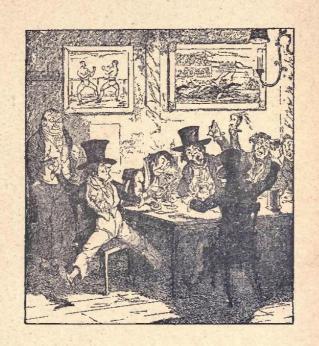


170 CRUIKSHANK'S HUMOROUS ILLUSTRATIONS

MR. LAMBKIN'S ADVENTURES (14).

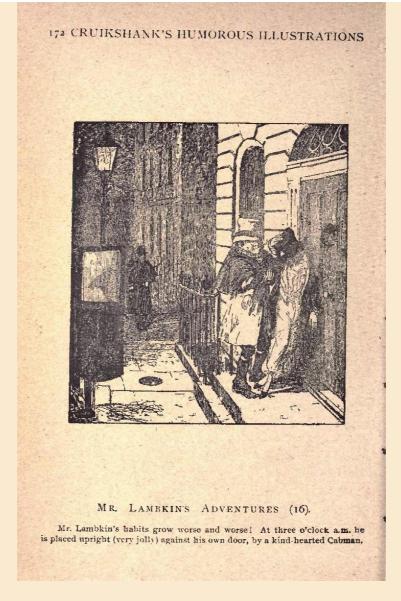
Mr. Lambkin and his friends cut a pretty figure in the morning before the Magistrate—their conduct is described as violent and outrageous, and their respectability is questioned. Mr. Lambkin and his friends insist upon being Gentlemen, and are, of course, discharged upon payment of 5s. each for being drunk, and making good the damage at the prices usually charged to Gentlemen.

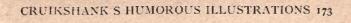




MR. LAMBKIN'S ADVENTURES (15).

Mr. Lambkin, finding that he has been variously and thoroughly be fooled, foolishly dashes into dissipation to drown his distressful thoughts. He joins Jovial Society, and sings "The right end of Life is to live and be jolly."

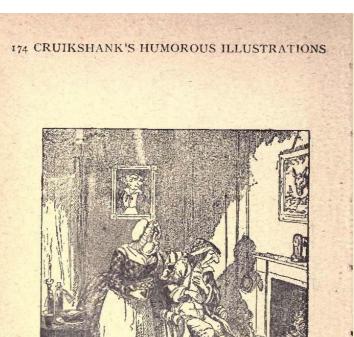






MR. LAMBKIN'S ADVENTURES (17).

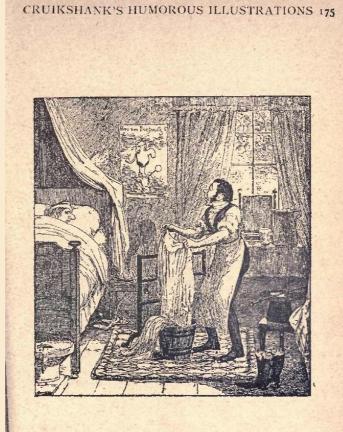
Mr. Lambkiu finds that he has been going rather too fast in the pursuit of Pleasure and Amusement, and like all other Lads of Spirit when he can go no farther, comes to a standstill.—————Being really very ill he sends for his Medical friend, who feels his pulse, shakes his head at his tongue, and of course prescribes the proper remedies.



MR. LAMBKIN'S ADVENTURES (18).

2

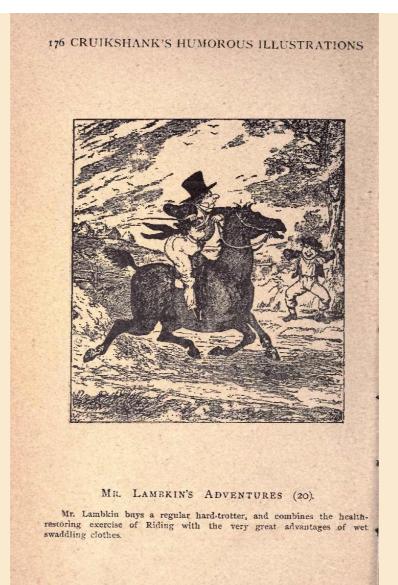
Mr. Lambkin has to be nursed, and to go through a regular course of medicine, taking many a bitter pill, and requiring all the sweet persuasive powers of Mrs. Slops to take his "regular doses" of "that horrid nasty stuff"

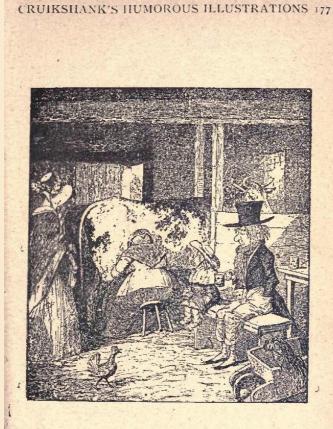


MR. LAMBKIN'S ADVENTURES (19).

Mr. Lambkin being tired of the old-fashioned regular practice, and being so fortunate as to live in the days when the real properties of water are discovered, places himself under a disciple of the immortal Priessnitz.

and the second





MR. LAMBKIN'S ADVENTURES (21).

Mr. Lambkin's confidence in the curative powers of Hydropathy being very much damped, and being himself quite soaked through, in fact, almost washed away, he takes to the good old-fashioned practice of walking carly in the morning, and drinking "New Milk from the Cow."

<u>Enlarge</u>

24



MR. LAMBKIN'S ADVENTURES (22).

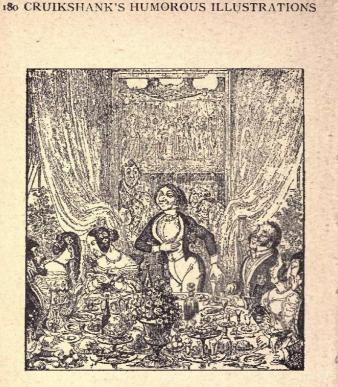
Mr. Lambkin being quite recovered, with the aid of new milk and Sea Breezes, determines to reform his habits, but feels buried alive in the Grand Mausoleum Club, and, contemplating an old bachelor member who sits poring over the newspapers all day, he feels horrorstruck at the probability of such a fate becoming his own, and determines to seek a reconciliation with the Lady of his Affections.

Enlarge



MR. LAMBKIN'S ADVENTURES (23).

Mr. Lambkin writes a letter of humiliation.—The Lady answers.—He seeks an interview.—It is granted.—He "hopes she'll forgive him this time."—The Lady appears resolute.—He earnestly entreats her to "make it up."—At length the Lady softens.—She lays aside her "cruel" work.—Ah! She weeps! Silly little thing, what does she cry for?—Mr. Lambkin is forgiven! He skips for joy! Pa and Ma give their consent.



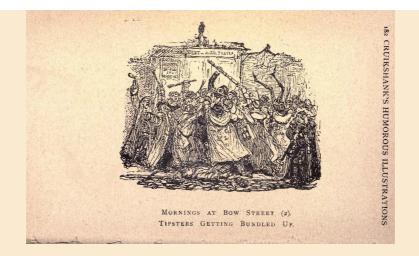
MR. LAMBKIN'S ADVENTURES (24).

And now let Mr. Lambkin speak for himself.—" Ladies and Gentlemon, unaccustomed as I am...(Bravo)...return...(Bravo) on the part of Miss...(oh! oh i ah ! ah !), I beg pardon, I mean Mrs. Lambkin (Bravo) and inyself, for the great...hum...ah...hum...and kindness (Bravo). In return...hum...ha... pleasure to drink all your healths (Bravo).—Wishing you all the happiness this world can afford (Bravo), I shall conclude in the words of our immortal bard—'may the single be married, and the (hear! hear! Bravo) married happy.'" Bravo!! Bravo!!!

<u>Enlarge</u>



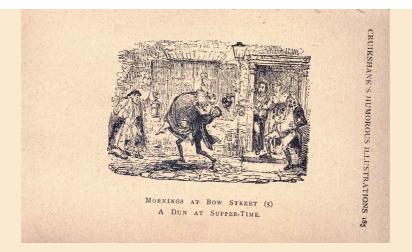
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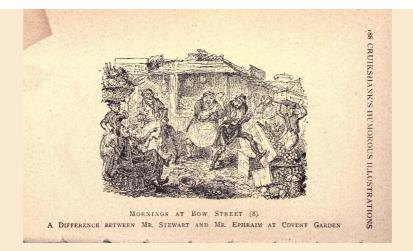




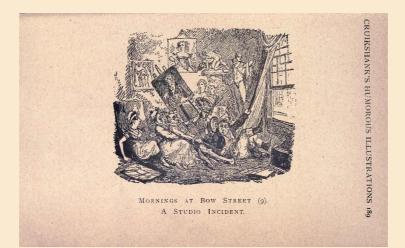
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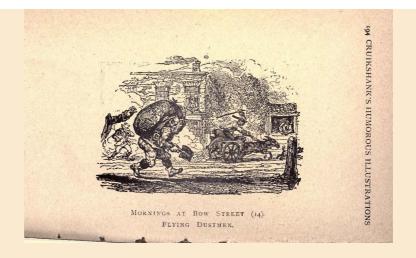




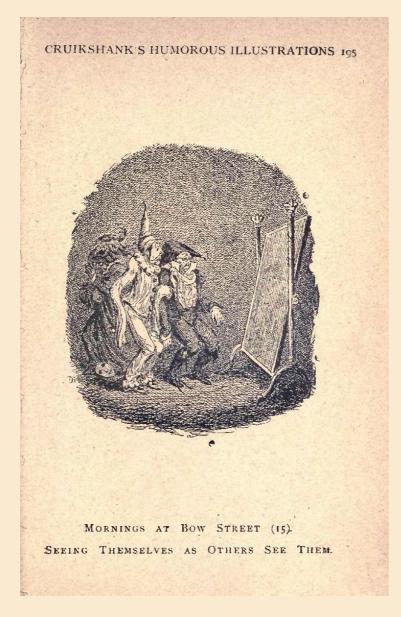
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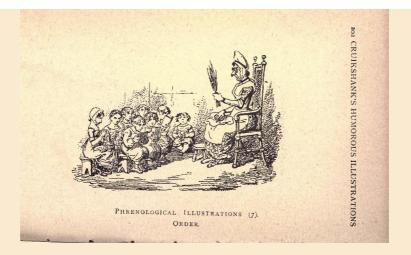






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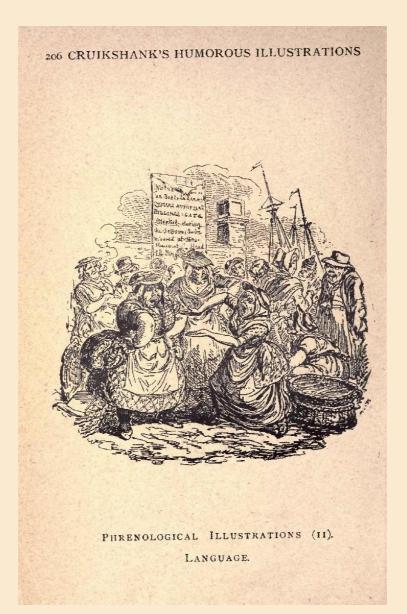
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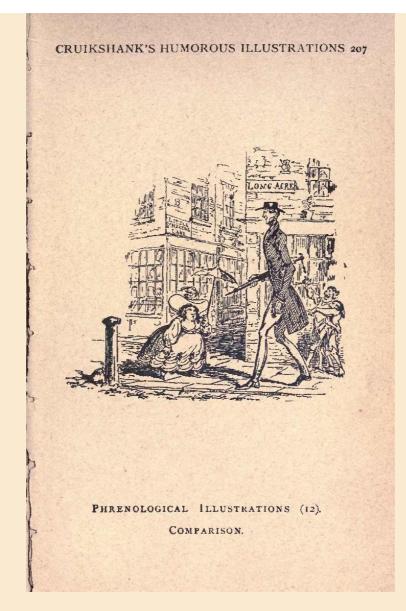


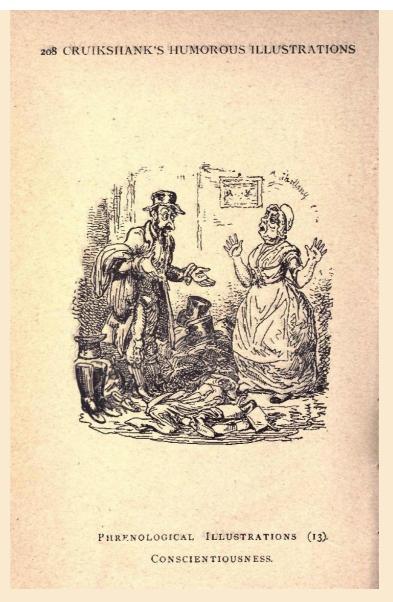




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<u>Enlarge</u>



PHRENOLOGICAL ILLUSTRATIONS (15). CAUTIOUSNESS.

<u>Enlarge</u>



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