

WHAT WILL HE DO  
WITH IT?

BY  
PISISTRATUS CAXTON

IN TWO VOLUMES  
VOL. I.

LONDON  
GEORGE ROUTLEDGE & SONS, LIMITED  
BROADWAY, LUDGATE HILL  
1902

BRADBURY, AGNEW, & CO. LD., PRINTERS  
LONDON AND TONBRIDGE.

# CONTENTS.

---

## BOOK I.

### CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
In which the history opens with a description of the social manners, habits, and amusements of the English People, as exhibited in an immemorial National Festivity—Characters to be commemorated in the history, introduced and graphically portrayed, with a nasological illustration—Original suggestions as to the idiosyncrasies engendered by trades and callings, with other matters worthy of note, conveyed in artless dialogue after the manner of Herodotus, Father of History (mother unknown), . . . . .	21

### CHAPTER II.

The historian takes a view of the British stage as represented by the irregular drama, the regular having (ere the date of the events to which this narrative is restricted) disappeared from the vestiges of creation, . . . . .	28
---	----

### CHAPTER III.

Striking illustrations of lawless tyranny and infant avarice exemplified in the social conditions of Great Britain—Superstitions of the dark ages still in force amongst the trading community, furnishing valuable hints to certain American journalists, and highly suggestive of reflections humiliating to the national vanity, . . . . .	32
---	----

### CHAPTER IV.

Being a chapter that links the past to the future by the gradual elucidation of antecedents, . . . . .	40
--	----

### CHAPTER V.

Speculations on the moral qualities of the Bandit—Mr. Vance, with mingled emotions, foresees that the acquisition of the Bandit's acquaintance may be attended with pecuniary loss, . . . . .	45
---	----

## CHAPTER VI.

Wherein the historian tracks the public characters that fret their hour on the stage, into the bosom of private life—The reader is invited to arrive at a conclusion which may often, in periods of perplexity, restore ease to his mind: viz., that if man will reflect on all the hopes he has nourished, all the fears he has admitted, all the projects he has formed, the wisest thing he can do, nine times out of ten, with hope, fear, and project, is to let them end with the chapter—in smoke, . . . . .	PAGE 47
---	------------

## CHAPTER VII.

The historian, in pursuance of his stern duties, reveals to the scorn of future ages some of the occult practices which discredit the march of light in the nineteenth century, . . . .	54
---	----

## CHAPTER VIII.

Showing the arts by which a man, however high in the air Nature may have formed his nose, may be led by that nose, and in directions perversely opposite to those which, in following his nose, he might be supposed to take; and therefore, that nations the most liberally endowed with practical good sense, and in conceit thereof, carrying their noses the most horizontally aloof, when they come into conference with nations more skilled in diplomacy, and more practised in "stage play," end by the surrender of the precise object which it was intended they should surrender before they laid their noses together, . . . . .	57
--	----

## CHAPTER IX.

The historian shows that, notwithstanding the progressive spirit of the times, a Briton is not permitted, without an effort, "to progress" according to his own inclinations, . . . .	63
---	----

## CHAPTER X.

Showing the causes why men and nations, when one man or nation wishes to get for its own arbitrary purposes what the other man or nation does not desire to part with, are apt to ignore the mild precepts of Christianity, shock the sentiments, and upset the theories of Peace Societies, . . . .	66
--	----

## CHAPTER XI.

Progress of the Fine Arts—Biographical anecdotes—Fluctuations in the value of money—Speculative tendencies of the time, . . . . .	71
---	----

## CONTENTS.

7

## CHAPTER XII.

In which it is shown that a man does this or declines to do that for reasons best known to himself—a reserve which is extremely conducive to the social interests of a community; since the conjecture into the origin and nature of those reasons stimulates the inquiring faculties, and furnishes the staple of modern conversation. And as it is not to be denied that, if their neighbours left them nothing to guess at, three-fourths of civilized humankind, male or female, would have nothing to talk about; so we cannot too gratefully encourage that needful curiosity, termed by the inconsiderate tittle-tattle or scandal, which saves the vast majority of our species from being reduced to the degraded condition of dumb animals, . . . . .	PAGE 77
---	------------

## CHAPTER XIII.

Inspiring effect of the Fine Arts: the vulgar are moved by their exhibition into generous impulses and flights of fancy, checked by the ungracious severities of their superiors, as exemplified in the instance of Cobbler Merle and his servant-of-all-work, . . . . .	81
--	----

## CHAPTER XIV.

The historian takes advantage of the summer hours vouchsafed to the present life of Mr. Waife's grandchild, in order to throw a few gleams of light on her past—He leads her into the palace of our kings, and moralises thereon; and, entering the Royal Gardens, shows the uncertainty of human events, and the insecurity of British laws, by the abrupt seizure and constrained deportation of an innocent and unforeboding Englishman, . . . . .	82
---	----

## CHAPTER XV.

The historian records the attachment to public business which distinguishes the British legislator—Touching instance of the regret which ever in patriotic bosoms attends the neglect of a public duty, . . . . .	90
---	----

## CHAPTER XVI.

Signs of an impending revolution, which, like all revolutions, seems to come of a sudden, though its causes have long been at work; and to go off in a tantrum, though its effects must run on to the end of a history, . . . . .	91
---	----