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A HUMOROUS HISTORY OF ENGLAND

THE ESSENTIALS OF ENGLAND'S
HISTORY TOLD IN RHYME

LIGHT
AND
AMUSING

TOLD AND
PICTURED

BY
HARRISON.

PRICE
3d.

WITH FORTY EIGHT
ILLUSTRATIONS



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*** START OF THIS PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK A HUMOROUS HISTORY OF ENGLAND ***

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front cover

ad1 **CONCERNING**
Anæmia
(Poorness of Blood.)
IN MEN AND WOMEN,
BY THE LATE
DR. ANDREW WILSON.

The public are very familiar with the term “Anæmia,” and this fact alone testifies to the extremely common nature of the ailment thus indicated.

As a rule Anæmia shows a gradual progress. There is experienced a feeling of lassitude, of being “easily tired out,” and a distaste for active exertion. The digestion is enfeebled, and, without feeling actually ill, the sufferer inclines towards an inactive life, while the appetite usually disappears, and a general bodily upset is represented. The lips are pale, the red of the eyelids, seen by turning down the lower eyelid, will exhibit a similar appearance. Breathlessness is another notable sign; the least exertion, going upstairs for instance, causes the sufferer to pant, because the heart, not being supplied with blood of good quality, cannot perform its work properly. The pulse is weak and irregular.

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A HUMOROUS
HISTORY OF ENGLAND

TOLD AND PICTURED

BY

C. HARRISON

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2 An After-Dinner Speech in Ye Olden Time. (And any other Time.)

BOADICEA.

Preface *“Arms and the man” was Virgil’s strain; But we
propose in lighter vein
To browse a crop from pastures (Green’s) Of England’s
Evolution scenes.
Who would from facts prognosticate The future progress
of this State,
Must own the chiefest fact to be Her escalator is the Sea.*

“Take cover”

Prehistoric **H**ISTORIANS erudite and sage, When
writing of the past stone age,
Tell us man once was clothed in skins And tattooed
patterns on his shins.
Rough bearded and with shaggy locks He lived in dug-
outs in the rocks.
Was often scared and run to earth By creatures of
abnormal girth:
Mammoths and monsters; truth to tell We find their
names too long to spell.
He joined in little feuds no doubt; And with his weapons
fashioned out
Of flint, went boldly to the fray; And cracked a skull or
two per day.

Druids **W**E read of priests of Celtic day, Ancient
Druids, holding sway
By smattering of Occult law And man's eternal sense of
awe.
Stonehenge They used Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain
Reputed Prehistoric Fane;
Note each megalithic boulder; No Monument in Europe's
older.

“Veni, Vidi, Vici”

Phœnicians **M**ERCHANT explorers of that day,
 Hustling Phœnicians, came this way
 To ship tin ore from Cornish mines Three thousand years
 before these lines.
 But still in spite of petty strife Man lived what’s termed
 the ‘simple life’
Julius Cæsar **B.C. 55** Till Julius Cæsar in five-five With his
 galleys did arrive.
 He wrote despatches of the best, ‘Veni, Vidi’ and the rest,
 Sending the news of victory home; And flags then
 fluttered high in Rome.
 His ‘photo’ one plain fact discloses He brought in fashion
 Roman noses.
 Of this great General ’tis allowed The best ‘Life’ is by J.
 A. Froude.
Boadicea **A.D. 62** Boadicea earns our praise. First woman
 leader in those days;
 For Freedom strove all she could do, ’Twas lost in A.D.
 sixty-two.
Agricola Then came Agricola one day And gained a
 battle near the Tay.
 He started trimming up this isle, And laid out roads in
 Roman style.
 East, North, South, West, it’s safe to say His handiwork is
 traced to-day.
 The Natives too were taught to know By busy merchants’
 constant flow

The wisdom that great Empire held; Their ignorance was
thus dispelled.

Romans left A.D. 410 About four hundred-ten A.D. The
Romans left sans cérémonie.

Can it be wondered at when Rome Was needing help
'gainst Huns at home.

Our antiquarians often find The relics which they left
behind;

A Villa here and pavement there, Coins galore and
Roman ware.

Anglo-Saxons A.D. 430 **A**ND so we run our flippant rhymes
Right on to Anglo-Saxon times.

Hengist and Horsa with their men Came from their Jutish
pirate den,

Jutes And paid us visits in their ships Bent on their
ruthless looting trips.

And Angles landing in the Humber Gave that district
little slumber.

They plundered morning, noon, and night, Were rough,
uncouth, and impolite,

No 'By your leave' or 'S'il vous plait' They came to rob,
remained to prey.

Horsa 455 Horsa was slain in four-five-five, Leaving
Hengist still alive

To live out his allotted term, Surviving partner of the
Firm.

King Arthur Time has many a fable wound About King
Arthur's table round,

Where Knights quaffed cordials, wines and ales, And told
their little fairy tales.

Augustine 597 About six hundred years A.D. To teach us
Christianity

Came Augustine. Wondrous Story; Canterbury's Pile his
glory.

Heptarchy 827 Called 'Heptarchy' the seven Saxon States
each other made attacks on;
After four hundred years they'd striven They coalesced in
eight-two-seven.

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic

Alfred 872-901 OF good King Alfred we've all heard
How when hiding he incurred
A lady's anger for not taking Care of Cakes which she
was baking.
(Most probably she left the King While she went out a-
gossiping.)
Before he died in nine-nought-one, Old England's Navy
had begun.
He laid a tax on every town To aid his fleet to gain
renown.
He was the best of Saxon Kings And did a lot of useful
things;
Built Oxford with its noble spires And mapped out
England into Shires.

Danes 783 IN seven-eight-three first came the Danes
Who caused the Saxons aches and pains.
They sailed right up our rivers broad, Putting the natives
to the sword.

“Danegeld” 991 For centuries our sadly fated Towns by
them were devastated.

Etheldred the ‘Unready Toff’ By ‘Danegeld’ tries to buy
them off.

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic

Canute 1014–1036 TWO hundred years the raiding Danes
Came over. Then their Canute reigns.

We'll merely mention that he tried An object lesson with
the tide.

Hardicanute 1039–1041 Hardicanute, sad to confess, Died
from drinking to excess.

He couldn't conquer love of wine And with him went the
Danish line.

Edward the Confessor 1041–1066 **E**DWARD the Confessor
staid The Saxon line renewed. Remade
At Westminster the Abbey grand, And signed the first
'Will' in this land.
And since his time ('tis not refuted) Scores of Wills have
been disputed.
Ah! legal quibbles such as these Mean Lawyers waxing
rich on fees.

Harold 1066 **H**AROLD last of the Saxon line At
Hastings made an effort fine
And lost his life—it was to be, Crushed by the men of
Normandy.
From Scandinavia they'd come, And made fair
Normandy their home;

William the Conqueror 1066–1087 Whence William spying out
our shore, Oliver-Twist-like, wanted more.
In ten-six-six he won the day In that tough fight out
Hastings way.

Of course, no record in our reach, Depicts 'ole Bill' thus
on the beach.

GOODE NYGHTE

William the Conqueror 1066–1087 **B**UT one thing's certain.
 Camera men, If only they'd existed then,
 Would have journeyed many a mile To 'snap' King
 William's happy smile.
 They made him King and schoolbooks say He ruled with
 arbitrary sway;
 Demanding with sharp battle axes Instant payment of big
 taxes.
Curfew And p'raps it's just as well to tell He introduced
 the Curfew Bell;
 So at the early hour of eight Each doused his glim, raked
 out his grate.
 In bed at eight P.M. each day Life was but sombre, dull
 and grey;
 No cutting fancy ball room capers, No Cinemas or
 evening papers.
 He was a bully it is true, But to allow him his just due
 He made reforms; he also took In hand the bulky
 Doomsday book.

IN William's time we're glad to write People began to be
 polite;
 Ladies curtseyed to their beaux, Who smartly raised their
 gay chapeaux.
The Jews The Jews he introduced from Spain Bringing
 much knowledge in their train
 Of Arts and Science; but 'Longshanks' Expelled them

with no word of thanks.

Feudalism These were the well known Feudal days,
Tenants were slaves in many ways
To mighty Lords who owned the land And ruled them
with an iron hand.
Not free from duties were the Lords, The King could call
upon their swords
And men to fight in time of need. So feudal laws of old
decreed.

William Rufus 1087–1100 **W**ILLIAM Rufus or the ‘Red’
In ten-eight-seven ruled instead;
This may be; but we know, alack, Though he was red his
deeds were black.

Crusades 1095 The first Crusade in ten-nine-five, A
million men, a very hive,
Swarm to the East, the Holy plain From the
Mohammedans to gain.

Henry I. 1100–1135 **H**ENRY the First, of wisdom rife,
Saxon Matilda makes his wife,
Saxon and Norman line uniting, A learned chap who
loved not fighting.

Stephen 1135–1154 **S**TEPHEN of Blois ascends the throne
And ’gainst Matilda holds his own;
Grandson of the Conqueror; Died in eleven-fifty-four.

Henry II. 1154–1189 **H**ENRY the Second claims our rhyme
‘The hardest worker of his time’;
A wiser King we never had Nor father with his sons so
bad.

Becket This the first ‘Plantagenet’ King With Becket
strove like anything;

Church v. Crown Which should be Master, Church or Crown
Pull-King Pull-Bishop; both went down.

Thomas was murdered by four Knights On steps of Altar
—Sorry wights:

With bleeding feet the King atones By pilgrimage to
Becket's bones.

Despite his struggles with the Church He knocked the
barons off their perch,

Fifteen hundred Castles razing In a manner quite
amazing.

Law Trial by jury further grows; The King's Court in
this reign arose;

Our Parliaments from this proceed And all our other
Courts indeed.

Linen Linen's first used in twelve-five Woollens alone in
vogue before.

Glass Windows In eleven-eight-nought first came to pass
The novelty of window glass.

And doubtless playful little boys Full of children's simple
joys,

Cracked as our youngsters often do With stones or ball a
pane or two.

Richard Cœur de Lion 1189–1199 Cœur de Lion from one
Crusade Returning was a prisoner made.

But Blondel played an Air he knew, The King joined in;
Voilà the clue.

This catchy tune in a pleasant key Opened the door to
liberty.

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic

John 1199–1216 **A**ND so we'll quickly journey on Until
we reach the reign of John;

A King whose list of crimes was heavy; He treated badly
his young ‘Nevvy’.

Magna Charta 1215 He signed the Magna Charta. Yes; In
twelve-fifteen, but we may guess

With much ill grace and many a twist; For King John
wrote an awful fist.

John loses Normandy to France And by this beneficial
chance

In England comes amalgamation;
Normans and Saxons
form one Nation

Robin Hood And now we come to Robin Hood, The
Forest bandit of Sherwood,

A popular hero much belauded But not by folks whom
he'd defrauded.

There's no need to descant upon His boon companion
 'Little John';

Or 'Friar Tuck' so overblown He tipped the scale at
fifteen stone.

Henry III. 1216–1272 **A**ND what of Henry number Three,
The King who suffered poverty?

It's very awkward we must own To be 'hard up' when on
a Throne;

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic

To have to scrape up an amount To pay the butcher on
account,

Or ask a dun in Kingly way To kindly call some other
day.

Coinage 1257 In twelve-five-seven it is stated Gold was
coined and circulated,

Ha'pence and farthings just before; In those times worth a
great deal more.

Langton Died 1228 The Bible which from over seas Had no
chapters and no verses

Was by Archbishop Langton's skill Divided as we use it
still.

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic

Why was it Henry III. allowed At court a huge rapacious
crowd

To drain his coffers nearly dry Flattering with cajolery?

Astrology **M**ANY simple folk, (it's queer) Used to
 patronise the seer
 And pay cash down for magic spell Perchance a
 Horoscope as well.
 Or open wide at special rate That musty tome the Book of
 Fate;
 Or seek the Philtre's subtle aid To win the hand of some
 fair maid.
 We mus'nt miss the Troubadours Who went forth on their
 singing tours,
 Twanging harps and trilling lays To maids of medieval
 days.
 And Oh! the right good merry times With Maskers,
 Mummers and the Mimes,
 Hobby horses gaily prancing, Bats and Bowls and
 Maypole dancing.
 When folks would take a lengthy journey To see the
 Knights at Joust or Tourney:
 Or watch the early English 'Knuts' Show their skill at
 Archery butts.
 Then come gloomy History pages On torture of the
 Middle ages;
 The clanking fetters grim and black, The thumbscrew and
 the awful rack,
 The horrors of the dungeon deep Beneath the moat or
 castle keep,
 Rusty locks and heavy keys And—let us change the
 subject, please.
 First House of Commons twelve-six-five, At Westminster
 they all arrive.
Simon de Montfort 1265 Simon de Montfort was the man
 Who 'engineered' this useful plan.
 And we can picture these M.P.s Newly fledged and ill at

ease

Doing their level best to try To catch the embryo
speaker's eye.

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic

Edward I. 1272–1307 EDMOND First 'Longshanks'
nicknamed For his lengthy stride far-famed.
Here he is in twelve-seven-two Bounding along with
much ado.
A Soldier, Statesman and a King His lofty ideals picturing
That England, Scotland, Wales all three, United should
one country be.

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic

First Prince of Wales 1282 In twelve-eight-two annexes Wales;
Where afterwards no strife prevails.
He promised a Prince with English So gave his new-born
speechless son.

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic

Edward I. 1272–1307 (continued) **N**EXT Scotland Edward tries
 to tackle No easy task the Scotch to shackle;
 Wallace and Bruce resistance make, The King dies ere he
 gains the stake.
 In Edward's reign some author writes They first used
 candle dips for lights;
 And coal came in about this date Mixed (as to-day) with
 lots of slate.

IRON JELLOIDS

So Monarchs, Barons, Dukes and Knights Warmed their
 toes with Derby Brights;
 But those in hovels had the smuts Arising from cheap
 Kitchen Nuts.
Roger Bacon 1293 Roger Bacon (ob. twelve-nine-three)
 Versed was in arts of alchemy;
 Gunpowder's composition knew; And many another
 chemic brew.
 Many Mortmain Acts are passed; Six centuries these
 efforts last
 To stop the hungry Hierarchy Devouring all the
 Squirearchy.
Lollards 1307 Lollards in thirteen-seven arose Popish
 rituals to oppose;
 John Wycliffe gives to old and young The Bible in the
 vulgar tongue.
 With John of Gaunt's protection strong He dared to

preach 'gainst cleric wrong;
Precursor of the Reformation To liberal thought attuned
the nation.

Edward II. 1307–1327 **E**DWARD the Second with his
minions Governs badly these dominions

Edward III. 1327–1377 His son a man of different mould
Was Edward Three, both wise and bold.

Through clinging to their French domains Our Kings are
French through many reigns

And Edward fighting in this cause Commenced a hundred
years of Wars.

A century's struggle. For our pains Only Calais town
remains.

French Wars A century after this 'twas lost, In Mary's
reign. Oh! what a frost.

Weaving 1331 In thirteen-three-one England's taught
Weaving by men from Flanders brought.

Ryghte goode cloth with lots of 'body' The world was
then not up to 'shoddy.'

Blanket of Bristol in this year Invented blankets for our
cheer;

And since that time its been our boast Our beds have been
as warm as toast.

Edward 'Black Prince' One-three-four-six, A brave and
noble warrior, 'licks'

Crecy 1346 The valiant French in Crecy's fray; Cannon
first used upon this day,

Causing panic with their rattle; But the Yeomen win the
battle,

For, flicking arrows from their bows They 'filled the air
as when it snows.'

Thereon the English Calais seize And of the channel hold
the keys;

The Spanish pirates bend the knee Then Edward III's
'King of the sea.'

Parliament 1376 Lords and Commons from this date Have
 their meetings separate,
The Commons first a Speaker make The Chancellors the
 Woolsack take.
Ten lady members have the Lords But doubtless fearful
 of their words,
Or thinking it not orthodoxy, They only let them vote by
 proxy.
While Church and Barons have their squabbles The
 House of Commons more power nobbles;
On laws and taxes dares speak out And give the Pope the
 right-about.

Kinge Rychard Ye II quarrelinge withe hysse People

Leasing **L**EASING or Farming, we are taught, Was
introduced 'bout twelve-nought-nought;
The Feudal system's weakened and The Tenants
'usufruct' the land.
On various counts the serfs go free And work for wages
(Edward Three).
The Black Death and the foreign wars In labour ranks
commotion cause;
Strikes and craftsmen's combination Then arise among
the nation;
These movements preached by one John Ball, Who, born
too soon, was hanged withal.

Richard II. 1377–1399 **N**OW comes the Second Richard's
reign. It is recorded very plain
That he was full of discontent Quarrelling with his
Parliament.

“By my Halidom I'll not pay it”

Poll Tax 1380 With his taxes super-sated The peasants
grew exasperated;
They threw their spades and pitchforks down And
marched as rebels into town.
Thirteen-eighty's Poll taxation Puts equal tax on all the
nation;
Lays seven thousand peasants dead; Wat Tyler and Jack
Straw at head.

Præmunire Præmunire Act is passed To check the Papal
Bulls at last.

Chaucer Chaucer the Poet this same year Makes
Pilgrimage to Becket's bier.

FORTES FORTUNA JUVAT.

Age of Chivalry This was the age, aye verily, Of ryghte
goode noble chivalry,
When Knights went forth through storm and stress To
rescue beauty in distress.

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic

Or sallied out in valiant way	A monster dragon for to
slay,	
Or with lance or trusty blade	Defend from harm the
hapless maid.	

Henry IV. 1399–1413 **H**ENRY Four, called ‘Bolingbroke’
 In Richard’s wheel puts many a spoke;
 Compels him to resign the throne Which thereupon he
 makes his own.
 Through John of Gaunt, Lancastrian famed, His title to
 the crown he claimed;
 The Parliament confirms his right And thus he’s king
 without a fight.
 Lollards 1401 In this reign persecution’s turned Against
 the Lollards—Cobham’s burned.
 Incredible! The records show A statute ‘de Comburondo.’

Henry V. 1413–1422 FROM fourteen-thirteen, Henry Five,
For many years with France did strive;
His Widow founds the Tudor House By taking Owen for
her spouse.

Henry VI. 1422–1461 **H**ENRY Six, next in our rhymes,
 For fifty years had troublous times;
 Wars of Roses, Wars with France, The poor man never
 had a chance.

Joan of Arc 1430 Joan of Arc the peasant Maid Inspired the
 French with Mystic aid;
 Disunited, we make peace, All France but Calais we
 release.

Constantinople 1453 Constantinople's seized by Turks
Causing Greek Scholars (with their works)
To fly to Italy; and thence Learning's reborn—'The
Renaissance.'

Edward IV. 1461–1483 **I**N Edward Fourth, fourteen-six-one
The House of York obtains the Throne.
He wins at Towton's bloody fray, No quarter given on
that day.
Guy, Earl of Warwick in these frays Was always turning
different ways;

Barnet 1471 On Barnet Field he met his doom The Rose
of York's now well abloom.
The Barons, Church and Commons fall, The King
emerges Boss of all.
Benevolences he exacts, An early form of Super Tax.
Earl of Warwick 'Kingmaker' was Earl Warwick styled
With his manner scarcely mild
He set Kings up and bowled them down Playing at
ninepins with the Crown.

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic

Wars of Roses 1485 White and Red Rose warring madly
Bled the country very sadly,
Three-and-thirty years contending; At Bosworth Field we
see the ending.
Printing 1473 First in fourteen-seventy-three We print
from type in this Countree.
Now it is that time's first measured By monster watches
greatly treasured.
Thomas Parr this centurie His hundred-fifty years did see;
But Henry Jenkins, so 'tis said, In age was seventeen
years ahead.
Hoary patriarchs were these Retaining p'raps their

faculties;

What a comfort 'tis to mention Neither drew the old age
pension.

Ye Bookeworme burninge ye Midnyghte Oile

P RINTING started through the Nation A taste for higher
education;

Here is a citizen at home; Note his very brainy Dome.

Richard III. 1483–1485 **R**ICHARD (Crookback) in fateful
hour Smothered his nephews in the Tower,
He murdered them the Crown to gain; A heavy price for
three years' reign.
The Scutcheon's blotted terribly Of this King Richard
number Three,
For it seems his recreation Was ordering decapitation.
1485 On Bosworth Field when sorely pressed He made a
bid th'uncommonest
'My kingdom for a horse' he cried; No offers coming,
there he died.

Henry VII. 1485–1509 **L**ANCASTRIAN Richmond wins the
fight And to make his title right
Elizabeth of York espouses, Thus uniting the two Houses.
This Henry Seven of Tudor line To misers' habits did
incline;
Twelve millions stated to possess, A tidy little fortune!
Yes!

Star Chamber Much he managed to extort By means of a
Star Chamber Court
From the rich nobles; A new wile For adding to the
kingly pile.
With cash in hand he could attain His wish as Autocrat to
reign;
As sole possessor of the guns The King no risk from

rebels runs.

Skyscrape Flats to be erected here; Buy Hustles chewing
gum; Fifth Avenue

Columbus 1498 COLUMBUS, full of travellers' lore, By
going West sought India's shore;
But found America's wondrous land; His 'exes' paid by
Ferdinand.
Of voyagers we've now a lot Vasco da Gama and Cabot,
Who sailed from Bristol, whence it grew Bristolians
claim this fine cuckoo.

Henry VIII Pops the Question

Henry VIII. 1509–1547 NOW Henry Eight comes on the
screen, A stalwart youth, ætat. eighteen;
With youthful hope the nation's buoyed; Only, alas! to be
destroyed.

Henry Ye Eighth Thynkynge offe Ye Past

Henry VIII. 1509–1547 (continued) **T**HIS King Henry number
Eight Six times tried the married state;
And certainly of all the Kings Spent the most on wedding
rings.
But to search through old Archives For tales of Henry
and his wives
And all their little tiffs to trace We cannot spare the time
or space.
Yet there are some who fain would sing The praises of
this rotund King;
But as a husband we're afraid His category's lowest
grade.
He wielded harsh the despot's power, And packed his
wives off to the Tower;
Consigned them to a fate most dreaded; Two, alas! he had
beheaded.

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic
HAIL NOW TO THEE OUR GOOD QUEEN BESS! Henry
 VIII. (continued)

Reformation 1517 **M**A RTIN Luther, fifteen-one-seven,
 Sows his Reformation leaven;
 It finds a culture medium here In the 'New Learning's'
 atmosphere.
 Of this New Learning More's the chief, Utopia's Author,
 He's 'mid grief
 Beheaded, saying cool and calm, 'Cut not my beard,
 that's done no harm.'
 His friend Erasmus, Logic's Master, Trimmed his sails
 and 'scaped disaster.
 A third, Dean Colet who St. Paul's School London into
 being calls.
Wolsey 1530 In fifteen-thirty Wolsey great, A Cardinal and
 Man of State,
 From Butcher's son had risen high. Reader! consult your
 Shakespeare nigh.
 Blamed by some; by others praised; He fell; but still the
 pile he raised
 Most nobly graces Hampton Court. Give Wolsey then a
 tender thought.
 His main ambition that the King Should be supreme in
 everything;
Thomas Cromwell And Thomas Cromwell followed suit To
 make his master absolute
 Head of the Church within his realm. These two most
 able at the helm;
 But not with skill enough endued To 'scape their King's
 ingratitude.

Despotical the King's power grew. He's England's Pope
by Act of Su-
Premacy; as, to gain divorce, The foreign Pope is banned
perforce.
1537 Now Bluff King Harry gives the Monks A series of
most awful funks;
Three thousand odd of their domains He 'collars' for his
Courtiers' gains.

Edward VI. 1547–1553 **E**DDWARD Six to the throne succeeds
A pious youth of goodly deeds;
One, well known in the Capital, The Blue Coat School
(Christ's Hospital).

Mary 1553–1558 **Q**UEEN Mary One, in Smithfield Square,
At Oxford, Gloucester and elsewhere,
Burned poor Martyrs by the score; The Romish faith she
would restore.

Elizabeth 1558–1603 **H**AIL now to thee our good Queen
Bess, Garbed in the puffed and padded dress,
Farthingale and starched up frills, Meaning heavy laundry
bills.
Od's Bodikins; what monstrous ruffs, What gowns of rich
embroidered stuffs
Piped and scolloped, trimmed with furs, And shaped like
huge gasometers.
Now we've warfare of the Creeds, For their thoughts all
Europe bleeds;
Each party seeks by force to make The other side its faith
forsake.
Spain the Great Power of those days In these contentions
first part plays.

Plymouth Hoe Bowling Club

Drake Drake at bowls on Plymouth Hoe Left his game to
meet this foe

And came home laden we are told With seachests full of
Spanish gold.

Armada 1588 In fifteen-eight-eight Armada strong From
Spain to squash us comes along;

Which Howard, Frobisher and Drake And stormy
weather overtake.

GLOBE THEATRE TONYGHTE Ye Tragedye offe
Hamlette by William Shakspere

Shakespeare 1564–1616 **A**ND in these epoch making days
Shakespeare wrote and staged his plays;
Weaving a thread whose magic strands Entwine all
English-speaking lands.
Fifteen-eight-seven Scots' Queen Mary Lost her head
through fate contrary.
When Henry Eight had robbed the Church 'Twas found
the poor were in the lurch;
Poor Law A law was passed about this date To place the
poor upon the rate.

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic

Sir Walter Raleigh 1552–1618 **S**IR Walter Raleigh, best of
Knights, The first to taste the keen delights
Of the enchantress so serene, The Ryghte Goode Ladye
Nicotine.
No information's yet to hand Concerning Raleigh's
favourite brand;
Tobacco Was it coarse-cut shag which burns The tongue,
or birdseye or returns?

Queen Elizabeth Good Queen Bess we understand Had
crowds of suitors for her hand;
And here we beg to give a view Of suitors waiting in a
queue.

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic

Queen Elizabeth (continued) AS time rolled on this Good
Queen Bess Lost somewhat of her sprightliness;
She got into a nervous state Was mopish and
disconsolate.
Now, as everyone will own, Had 'Iron Jelloids' been but
known
In Bess's time; why, it's conceded 'Twas just the Tonic
that she needed.
East India Company 1600 The great 'John Comp'ny' now began
Its fine career without a plan.
Great! The Elizabethan Age. In History's book a glorious
page.

Somewhere or other we've heard snuff Came in the days
of frill and ruff;
And here's a noble ill at ease Giving the first recorded
sneeze.

James I. 1603–1625

JAMES Six of Scotland, miscalled a
‘fule’ As James One of England comes to rule.
Gramercy! ’tis a canny thing To be a ‘double-barrelled’
King.
The son of Mary Queen of Scots Of learning he had lots
and lots,
Writing sundry ponderous books ’Gainst ’bacca, witches
and their spooks.
James thought his kingly power divine And, loathing
Puritanic ‘whine,’
He vowed to make them all comply Or else he’d ‘know

the reason why.'

Pilgrim Fathers 1620 His persecution to escape Some
Zealots in the 'Mayflower' shape
Their course for an uncharted world Where Freedom's
Flag could be unfurled.
These 'Pilgrim Fathers' found a state 'New England,'
blessed with happy fate.
Folks have called the first King James Most
uncomplimentary names;
To wit 'a sloven' and 'a glutton'; Perhaps his weakness
was Scotch Mutton.
And as to gluttony, 'Gadzooks'! If what we read in
History books
Is true, they all were trenchermen; There were no diet
faddists then.
It startles us, one must declare, To read their breakfast bill
of fare;
All 'Kynes' of ale, some highly spiced And divers meats,
roast, boiled and sliced.
In James' reign a man could get For money down a
coronet
And titles with the greatest ease Like folks to-day buy
soap and cheese.
Harvey Yet a learned time; for Harvey shows That
blood's not stagnant, but it flows;
Lord Bacon 'Experiment!' Lord Bacon cries 'There is no
progress otherwise.'

Model of the notorious Guy Fawkes which however is not
considered historically accurate

5th November 1605 **O**F troubles James had quite a lot, For
instance the Gunpowder Plot.
It fizzled out but left to-day A liking for Firework display.

The First Cracker

So rockets with their sweeping curves, Crackers which
upset the nerves
And squibs with their infernal din To this date owe their
origin.

Charles I. 1625–1649 **H**IS son Charles One we understand
Ruled England with a grasping hand;
For he was never loth to levy Taxes burdensome and
heavy.
He moved in an expensive set, Was always heavily in
debt;
In fact this monarch with his frills Was snowed up to the
neck with bills.
He was courtly, graceful, distingué, And when the
scaffold came his way
‘He nothing common did or mean Upon that memorable
scene.’
He had a very taking way And made his taxed up subjects
pay;
And over taxing it is said This Monarch fairly lost his
head.

Petition of Right—1628 The ‘Petition of Right’ a famous Act,
The Commons from the King exact;
Giving the subject on his own A remedy against the
throne.

First Newspaper 1621 In sixteen-hundred-twenty-one Our
first news-sheet began its run;
For twenty years ’twas going strong Then the first Censor
came along.
This journal cribbing from the Dutch Lacked the smart
journalistic touch;
And also photographic views, ‘Sporting pars’ and ‘Stop-
press News.’

The Great Struggle in Charles’ Time. King trying to get
money from Taxpayer. Creditor trying to get money from
King

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic
THAT QUIET MAN, KNOWN AS THE EARLY PURITAN.

Cotton 1630 COTTON first came from India's shore In
 sixteen-thirty, less or more;
 Where for three thousand years it grew, Also in Egypt
 and Peru.
 Grim reading is the note confessing Gangs went out for
 Navy pressing,
 Forcing many a timid knave To spend his life on ocean
 wave.

Ship Money 1636 Charles raises the ship money tax; He
 thought he only had to 'ax';
 When Hampden strenuously objected, The King was very
 much affected.

Strafford 1641 Earl Strafford ('Thorough') in his pride
 'The King shall rule the Commons' cried;
 The Commons would not brook such stuff And cut his
 head off. 'Quantum Suff.'
 The 'Grand Remonstrance' is put forth By the Commons
 who are wrath
 With the King's despotic ways Quite unsuited to these
 days.

The King tries hard to put in jail Five Members but
 without avail;
 Hollis, Strode, Haslerig and Pym And Hampden (we
 must mention him);
 They're guarded from the Royal hands By Watermen and
 City Bands.
 The 'die is cast' and Civil War For seven long years the
 Nation tore.

Civil Wars 1642–1648 CROMWELL greatest of the foemen
 With his faithful English Yeomen;
 These ‘Roundheads’ sober, grim, religious To ‘Cavaliers’
 gave blows prodigious.
 Their character’s seen in the cry ‘Trust God and keep
 your powder dry.’
Naseby 1645 The Cavaliers and Roundheads fought In
 many a field, ’till Naseby brought
 To Generals Cromwell and Fairfax A crowning victory,
 though not ‘pax.’
 The King’s beheaded, but the State Experiences no
 headless fate;
 A commonwealth’s forthwith proclaimed And
 Cromwell’s soon Protector named.
Dunbar 1650 In sixteen-fifty Dunbar sees The Royal Scots
 brought to their knees;
 And in the second Worcester fight Cromwell for good
 asserts his might.
Worcester 1651 And there are those who love to tell About
 that day at Boscobel
 When Charles the Second’s Majestye Found itself doubly
 ‘up a tree.’
 And now we meet that quiet man Known as the early
 Puritan;
 Mild and placid in his talk, Calm and measured in his
 walk.

“Paint me warts and all”

Commonwealth 1649–1660 Oliver Cromwell bluff and bold,
 Was cast in Nature’s sternest mould,
 Lacking maybe the courtly grace And proud of warts
 upon his face.
 He fought the Irish and the Scotch And with his navy beat

the Dutch

Let all his faults condonéd be, He kept us up on land and
sea.

“Take away that bauble”

Commonwealth (continued) HE seemed to like bold argument
And wordy wars with Parliament;
He made things lively we infer Frequently at
Westminster.

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic

With M.P.s he had many a bout And one day cleared the
whole lot out;
Locked the door and took the key; Those not the days of
‘Wait and See.’

Charles II. 1660–1685 CROMWELL’S death brings
Restoration And Charles Two lands ’mid
acclamation.
After his leaps from twig to twig He now has ‘Otium cum
Dig.’
In merry Charles the Second’s age Woman first acted on
the stage;
The King encouraged much this vogue He was a pleasure
seeking rogue.
‘He never said a foolish thing, Nor did a wise one’; this
the King
Countered with ‘My words my own My acts my
ministers’ alone’;
1662 In sixteen-six-two year of grace, Charles taxed
every fire-place;
And citizens who couldn’t pay Shivered and grumbled as
to-day.

These were the times of Musketeers And proud and
dashing Cavaliers;
When words were few and tempers hot And duels fought
out on the spot.

John Bunyan **T**HE tinker preacher Bunyan wrote The
‘Pilgrim’s Progress’ we still quote,
The prison bars no barrier wrought To lowly Bunyan’s
lofty thought.

Milton 1678 In stately language Milton’s muse The Bible
story doth diffuse;

From ‘Paradise Lost’ we get our view Of Adam and Eve
and Satan too.

The Reverend Titus Oates, a scamp, Egregious Popish
plots did vamp,

Lied roundly for dishonest gains, Got Cat-o’-nine-tails
for his pains.

Habeas Corpus 1679 The ‘Habeas Corpus’ best of laws
Shields us from prison without cause;

’Twas passed in sixteen-seventy-nine, And means
‘Produce him here,’ in fine.

Van Tromp Admiral Van Tromp, Dutchman bold, With
broom at masthead, so ’tis told,

The Channel sailed, suggesting he’s Swept all the English
from the seas.

Blake But Blake laughed loud and spread his sails
Nought the Dutchman now avails;

For he got an awful shocker Right to Davy Jones’ locker.

But though the Dutch failed to invade, They were not
disinclined to trade;

So we get ‘Hollands,’ cheese and hams Fresh from the
land of Dykes and Dams.

Peace of Breda 1667 For fifteen years these Navies fought,
’Till sixteen-six-seven respite brought;

The Peace of Breda then succeeded; New York to
England was conceded.

Plague In sixty-five the Plague appears And then the
Fire; two awful years

Fire of London 1665–1666 For London—And if more you'd
know Consult the Pages of Defoe.

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic
QUEEN ANNE AND THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.

James II. 1685–1688 **W**HEN Charles Two died his brother
 James Soon put the country into flames;
 Papistry he would advance, And for that purpose leagued
 with France.
 In sixteen-eight-eight his bigot zeal Religious Test Act
 would repeal;
 Seven bold Bishops who defied To the Tower were sent
 and tried.
 The country raised a hue and cry So off to France the
 King doth fly.

William III. 1689–1702 **H**IS place is filled by William Three
 His son-in-law from Dutch countree.
 This Orange sprig most brave of men With Mary reigns
 and all things then
 Went well with us. Macaulay's page Hails him as Hero of
 the age.
 In this reign of William Three, Laws were harsh 'gainst
 burglary;
 For they'd a very drastic way And hanged the 'Bill
 Sykes' of that day.

National Debt 1694 In sixteen-nine-four we have heard The
 National Debt was first incurred;
 To careful folk who would invest 'Twas not devoid of
 interest.
 Another National Debt we owe To Iron Jelloids which the
 foe
 Depression's worries keep at bay And drive our nervous
 fears away.

Bill of Rights 1689 The 'Bill of Rights,' a Charter grand, In
sixteen-eight-nine frees this land
From all encroachments of the Crown Hoi Polloi are no
longer down.

Queen Anne 1702–1714 **G**OOD Queen Anne we know is
dead; She reigned twelve years but it is said
'Mrs. Morley,' Marlborough's wife Ruled her more than
half her life.

Marlborough This was the Duke of Marlborough's day,
Who beat the French in every fray;
Known for his famous victories At Blenheim and at
Ramillies.
In seventeen-seven by statute passed English and Scotch
unite at last;
'One coinage and one Parliament' Both Nations ever
since content.
About this time, so runs the story, Much is heard of
'Whig and Tory';
And shortly after there was rife Many a sign of party
strife.

Dr. Watts 1674–1748 Good Dr. Watts' moral lays Were
much reputed in these days;
And still we lisp at Mother's knee 'How doth the little
Busy Bee.'

Pope 1688–1744 Pope, letter-writer and great poet, Most
quotable of all (ye know it),
At Twickenham penned his caustic verse Epigrammatic,
smooth and terse.

George I. 1714–1727 **T**HE House of Stuart being ended,
George of Hanover (descended
From daughter of King Jamie One) Comes over to ascend
our throne.
Of English George knew not a word, Most awkward, not
to say absurd,

At Cabinet Councils to preside; So from this time the
practice died.

George II. 1727–1760 **H**IS son George Two succeeding then
In person fought at Dettingen.

Both these Kings had various fights In Scotland with the
Jacobites.

William Tull brings in Post Chaises; Now the people ride
like ‘blazes.’;

Many can’t for they’re in trouble, Ruined by the South
Sea Bubble.

Wesleys 1703–1791 John and Charles Wesley, men of mind,
Revive Religion in Mankind.

Founding a Church both broad and low, One-seven-three-
nought A. Domini.

Clive 1746 Beginning as an office clerk As soldier Clive
soon made his mark,

And conquered India for this Nation; Self ’stounded at his
moderation.

Bridgwater, Gilbert, Brindley, three Great Engineers this
Centurie,

Canals Useful canals in England made, The flowing
arteries of trade.

Quebec 1759 General Wolfe seventeen-five-nine Captures
Quebec—a victory fine,

And Canada’s the splendid prize For old ‘John Bull’ to
colonise.

George III. 1760–1820 **A**ND now of Georgey number Three:
Ut mulus obstinatus he

Had full sixty years of reign And a big family to train.

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic
GEORGIAN TIMES.

Georgian Times WE will but very lightly scan The
 customs known as ‘Georgian’;
 The times of powdered Belles and Beaux; Patches, paint
 and furbelows;
 Of beauteous maids and gallants gay And merry routs at
 Ranelagh;
 Gaming parties, cards or pool And ‘Fops’ of the Beau
 Brummel School.

“Odds faith they say there’s iron in it”

When rank and fashion History tells All took their cures
among the Wells;
And sipped in manner hesitating Daily doses nauseating
But we know better how to act Our cures we purchase
more compact
For in the Chemists' you can see 'Iron Jelloids' priced at
'One and Three.'
Lord 'Periwig' and gay 'Fallal' In Sedan Chairs frequent
the Mall.
'Taxis' and 'Tubes' we beg to state Came in at a much
later date.
When Brummel, the historic Beau, Made laws for dress
and outward show;
Whose vests were poems, whose coats were dreams Of
gorgeous beauty, so it seems;
Who figured in the public gaze A 'Star turn' with his

courtly ways;
 Who fixed the style of a cravat, Lord of Appeal anent a
 hat.
 And My Lord Chesterfield was quite The model of the
 most polite
 Wrote famous letters. It's a shame, A settee has usurped
 his name.
Dr. Johnson 1709–1784 And Dr. Johnson at his ease Sipped
 his tea at the 'Cheshire Cheese,'
 Or at the 'Mitre' of renown, Spreading his wit throughout
 the Town.
Garrick When Garrick as the 'Moody Dane' Drew the
 Town to Drury Lane,
Mrs. Siddons Sarah Siddons was all the rage Tragedy
 Queen of every age.
 Highwaymen armed to the teeth Waited for prey on
 Hounslow Heath;
 Per contra the Highwayman's pate Was oft strung up at
 Tyburn Gate.
Capt. Cook 1728–1779 It's only right a History book Should
 mark the feats of Captain Cook;
 So jot it down in these our Rhymes That round the World
 he sailed three times.
Inventions 1767 These are the days of much invention The
 'Spinning Jenny' we will mention;
 The 'Cotton Mule' and 'Power Loom'; For Authors'
 names there's lack of room.
Adam Smith 1766 In his book 'The Wealth of Nations'
 Adam Smith shows the relations
 Governing the Art of Trading; With influences far
 pervading.
 'Man buys as cheaply as he can And sells as dearly, that's
 his plan.'
 'Supply Demand each other feed Dearer markets cheap
 ones bleed.'
Jenner 1796 Jenner brings in vaccination, Boon to every

generation;

By similar methods now devised Many an ill is exorcised.

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic
NELSON AND WELLINGTON.

American War 1775 **I**N seventeen-sixty and fifteen Our
Taxes raise the Yankees' spleen.
'Unrepresented, you've no right To tax us, therefore we
will fight.'
Washington, Franklin and the rest Formed a Republic
quite the best;
We've long been friends. Let us rejoice; But at the time
we had no choice.

French Revolution **I**N France in times of Louis Seize (says)
Oppression dire through countless days
Roused Revolution with its tears Mainly through books
with wrong ideas.
Napoleon I. 1793-1815 From Revolution's putrid mess A
Conqueror's born, quite conscienceless,
Millions of men and women died Victims to Napoleon's
pride.
He plunged all Europe into Wars His own ambition the
sole cause.
England as usual did her 'bit' And 'Boney' Europe had to
quit.
During these years of storm and stress Two noble pilots
we possess
'Chatham and Son' (Pitt is their name), Illustrious on the
scroll of fame.
Nelson 1805 Here we must our homage pay To Nelson of
Trafalgar Day;
Wellington To Wellington the same is due, Who crowned
his fame at Waterloo.

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic

AND 'Shiver my timbers,' 'Heave ahoy,' The Tar, those
times a breezy boy
With shiny hat and pigtail long And love for lass and
glass and song.

Discovery of Electric Force About this date Electric Force
Dawns on mankind. Before, of course,
In Lightning it was all about, With noise enough to be
found out.

Coelo eripuit fulmen, 'Twas said of Franklin, as ye ken.
Philosopher of bygone age Accept our homage on this
page.

But who'd have thought it that Galvani When making
soup, (this is no blarney)
By his power of observation On a frog's legs' oscillation
Should find how by chemic ways Electric currents we can
raise?

To call him 'great' is no flattery; He set us on the
wondrous battery.

This simple little frog, Heigh Ho! The frog who would a-
wooing go;

Thy part in electricity Is unmatched eccentricity.

This new discovered fact, of course, Leads to the
Telegraph of Morse,

The Motor and Electric Light The Telephone and more in
sight.

Early Victorian—Mid Victorian
IN QUEEN VICTORIA'S PALMY DAYS.

Ireland **O**F Ireland but a word or two. Celts were her
 people and they knew
 Not benefit of Roman Ruling; Young Europa's Infant
 Schooling.
 In century five St. Patrick great Converts them to the
 Christian state;
 And from this Western Isle afar, English and Scotch
 converted are.

Danes and Ireland Two hundred years from nine-nought-
 nought Danes raiding Erin trouble brought;
 And left them in chaotic state No longer masters of their
 fate.

In those days 'twas 'Woe to the weak,' Saxons and Danes
 had made us squeak,
 Then came the Normans in great force And civilised us in
 due course.

They tried the same with Ireland green; But only sowed a
 feud between
 The land they'd conquered and Erin, Leading to endless
 quarrelling.

Cromwell England accepts the Reformation, Catholic still
 the Irish nation

Boyne Sees Cromwell with them battle join And William
 beat them at the Boyne.

William Pitt in eighteen-nought-nought Ireland and
 England's welfare sought

Act of Union 1800 By 'Act of Union' which he passed; But
 still the wretched squabbles last.

George IV. **N**OW come George Four and Will his brother;
With these two kings we need not bother;

William IV. The first a gourmand, bon viveur, The next a
sailor, bluff, sans peur.

Trevithick, Newcomen, and Watt Are names will never
be forgot;

For their crude engines were the source Of man's control
of Steam's wild force.

Steam 1830 By eighteen-thirty man has tamed Steam to
his use; and widely famed

Was puffing 'Rocket' with the power Of doing thirty
miles an hour.

Steam prompts man to make machines And Factories rise
with all that means;

Divided more and more is labour Each man leans more
on his neighbour.

For twenty million pounds the nation Buys our slaves'
emancipation.

Reform Act In eighteen-three-two, happy year, The great
Reform Act doth appear.

Steam vessels the Atlantic cross. The penny post comes
into force.

And double knocks bring joys and thrills Sometimes
cheques, more often bills.

Corn Law Repeal 1846 The Corn Law duty's brushed away,
Hence we enjoy cheap bread to-day.

WE fain would linger, but alas, These are the periods
we must pass.

So gentle reader do not grin At sight of cumbrous
crinoline.

Victoria 1837–1901 Since Queen Victoria's palmy days
Woman has altered all her ways.

In those days she was meek and mild And treated almost
like a child;

Woman's Status Was brought up in a narrow zone; And

couldn't call her soul her own.
She vegetated, 'tis well known Under the 'cloche' of
Chaperone.
But now the 'Franchise' she obtains, And her own
property retains.
What a difference from then, She 'carries on' just like the
men.
And now at Westminster we see A lady sitting as M.P.

Darwin 1809–1882 CHARLES Darwin offers us a Key To
help unlock the mystery
Of Evolution's wondrous span From Protoplasm up to
Man.

Livingstone 1813–1873 The traveller, great Scotch Livingstone,
Wandered o'er Afric's trackless Zone;
Where no white man had ever trod Teaching the blacks
the Word of God.

Crimean War English, French and Turks unite 'Gainst
Russia in Crimean fight.

Indian Mutiny The Indian Mutiny now arose, 'Fat' was the
cause that led to blows.

Atlantic Cable With efforts many men most able Lay the
great Atlantic Cable.

Suez Canal Lesseps unites for you and me The
Medit'anean and Red Sea.

Education Act The Education Act proposes To make us all
as wise as Moses;
In eighteen-seven-nought it passed, But each is learning
to the last.

Ballot Act 1872 A couple of years from this we note The
Ballot Act gives secret vote;
Before this Act, e'en since we fear, Folks sold their votes
for draughts of beer.

IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic
WOMEN TOOK TO SPADE AND HOE.

Edward VII. 1901–1910 **E**DWARD Seven, ‘Peacemaker’
 named, His efforts to this end far famed.
 We know it was no idle chance His ‘Entente cordiale’
 with France.
 True friendship and the peace we want The outcome of
 this grand Entente.
 Though not accented in our rhyme We’ve been fighting
 all the time;
 And it’s a fact which must be stated Our chief opponent
 (so ’twas fated)
Wars with France Our nearest neighbour o’er the Sea
 Whose ‘No’ is ‘Non’; whose ‘Yes’ is ‘Oui’;
 Like two schoolboys always sparring Eight hundred years
 together warring;
 From Hastings unto Waterloo We’d battles with the brave
 ‘Mossoo.’
 Now Honi soit qui still y pense; Hurrah for England!
 Vive la France!

AND here we come to end our rhymes We’ve reached
 the present stirring times,
 When one and all lent helping hand To keep secure the
 Motherland.
 When men went forth to fight the foe And women took to
 spade and hoe,
 And donning smocks of nattiest styles, Worked on the
 land for Farmer Giles.
 Now three cheers for the dainty maids, Government
 clerks of different grades;

Nor are we likely to forget Our debt to the Munitionette.
 The Present Time We seem to have subdued the Hun And
 so farewell (our task is done)
To Anzacs-Indians-Poilus-Yanks— Italians-Belgians-Japs-
 and-Tanks.

ad2

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BY THE LATE

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back cover IRON JELLOIDS The Great Tonic

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