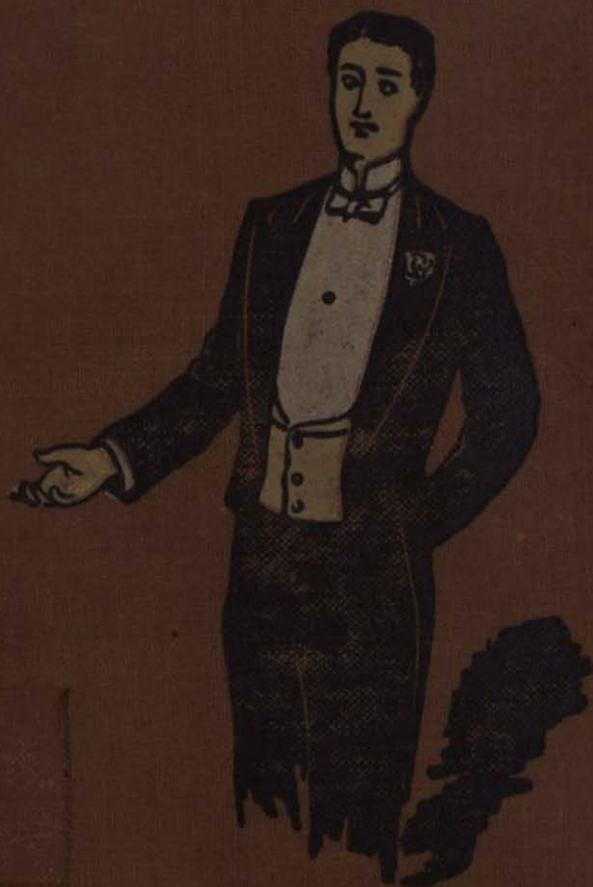


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ROUTLEDGE'S

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BY

J. E. CARPENTER



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PREFACE.

A VOLUME of Recitations sufficiently varied to be available for school purposes as well as the public platform, which embraces modern and standard pieces, and which is published at a price calculated to place it within the reach of all, will, it is presumed, meet with a commensurate support. In "Routledge's Popular Reciter" these objects are sought to be obtained, while for those whose attention is directed to the humorous in prose and verse, its companion volume, "Routledge's Comic Reciter," will be available.

It is gratifying to the Editor, while thanking the owners of the copyrights of many pieces introduced in the following pages for permission to include them, to acknowledge also the obligation he is under to the several Authors of recognised position who have favoured him with original contributions, and thus enabled him to present his readers with more novelty than is usually found in similar publications.

J. E. C.

Notting Hill, 1867.

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ROUTLEDGE'S POPULAR RECITER.

BISHOP HATTO AND THE RATS.

ROBERT SOUTREY.

[Eminent as a poet, biographer, historian, and scholar. Sometimes
Poet Laureate. Born 1774; died 1843.]

THE summer and autumn had been so wet,
That in winter the corn was growing yet,
'Twas a piteous sight to see all around
The corn lie rotting on the ground.

Every day the starving poor
They crowded around Bishop Hatto's door,
For he had a plentiful last year's store,
And all the neighbourhood could tell
His granaries were furnished well.

At last Bishop Hatto appointed a day
To quiet the poor without delay,
He bade them to his great barn repair,
And they should have food for the winter there.

Rejoiced the tidings good to hear,
The poor folks flocked from far and near,
The great barn was full as it could hold
Of women and children, and young and old.

Then when he saw it could hold no more,
Bishop Hatto he made fast the door,
And whilst for mercy on Christ they call,
He set fire to the barn and burnt them all.