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POETRY.

Cautionary Verses to Youth of both Sexes.

[Our readers may know that to all the editions of Entick's Dictionary, commonly used in schools, there is prefixed 'A Table of Words that are alike, or nearly alike, in Sound, but different in Spelling and Signification.' It must be evident that this table is neither more nor less than an early provocation to punning; the whole mystery of which vain art consists in the use of words, the sound and sense of which are at variance. In order, if possible, to check any disposition to punnery in youth, which may be fostered by this manual, I have thrown together the following adaptation of Entick's hints to young beginners, hoping thereby to afford a warning, and exhibit a deformity to be avoided, rather than an example to be followed; at the same time showing the caution children should observe in using words which have more than one meaning.]—Hood.

My little dears who learn to read,
Pray early learn to shun
That very silly thing indeed
Which people call a pun.
Read Entick's rules, and 'twill be found
How simple an offence
It is to make the selfsame sound
Afford a double sense.

For instance, 'ale' may make you 'ail,'
Your 'aunt' an 'ant' may kill,
You in a 'vale' may buy a 'veil,'
And 'Bill' may pay the 'bill.'
Or if to France your bark you steer,
At Dover it may be,
A 'peer' 'appears' upon the 'pier,'
Who, blind, still goes to 'sea.'

Thus one might say, when to a treat
Good friends accept our greeting,
'Tis 'meet' that men who 'meet' to eat,
Should eat their 'meat' when meeting.
Brawn on the 'board's' no 'bore' indeed,
Although from 'boar' prepared:
Nor can the 'fowl,' on which we feed,
'Foul' feeding be declared.

Thus 'one' ripe fruit may be a 'pear,'
And yet be 'pared' again,
And still be 'one' which seemeth rare
Until we do explain.

It therefore should be all your aim
To speak with ample care;
For who, however fond of game,
Would choose to swallow 'hair'?

A fat man's 'gait' may make us smile,
Who has no 'gate' to close;
The farmer sitting on his 'stile'
No 'stylish' person knows.
Perfumers men of 'scents' must be;
Some 'Scilly' men are 'bright';
A 'brown' man oft 'deep read' we see,
A 'black' a wicked 'wight.'

Most wealthy men good 'manors' have,
However vulgar they;
And actors still the harder slave,
The oftener they 'play.'
So poets can't the 'baize' obtain
Unless their tailors choose;
While grooms and coachmen not in vain
Each evening seek the 'Mews.'

The 'dyer,' who by 'dying' lives,
A 'dire' life maintains;
The glazier, it is known, receives
His profits from his 'panes.'
By gardeners 'thyme' is tied, 'tis true,
When spring is in its prime;
But 'time' or 'tide' won't wait for you
If you are 'tied' for 'time.'

Then now you see, my little dears,
The way to make a pun;
A 'rick' which you, through coming years,
Should sedulously shun.
The fault admits of no defence;
For wheresoe'er 'tis found,
You sacrifice the sound for sense,
The sense is never sound.

So let your words, and actions too,
One single meaning prove,
And, just in all you say or do,
You'll gain esteem and love.
In mirth and play no harm you'll know,
When duty's task is done;
But parents ne'er should let you go
Un-pun-ish'd for a pun.

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