

I strive to sketch, as well as I am able,
A few frequenters of the billiard-table.

First on the list, behold yon forward blade,
Who seems to be no tyro at the trade,
The simple fools that, thronging, round him stand,
Are lost in wonder at his slight of hand,
Whilst he, with brow serene, and placid smile,
Doubles the stakes, and gudgeons them in style :
Mark with what ease he wins their ready cash,
Their spare bank-notes, and such like kind of trash.
Next comes that haughty, lowborn, purseproud elf,
Whose boast eternal is his store of pelf ;
Proud, vaunting fool, pray cease your foolish boast
Of what large sums you've either won or lost,
You're among those who count you honest game,
And will, if not your pride, your pocket tame.
Now for his profile sits old *Johnny Gruff*,
With beard unshorn, and face begrimed with snuff ;
Indeed his snuff-box seems his gambling score,
So takes a pinch, and loses five pounds more ;
Vex'd to the soul at losing all his ready,
He damns his eyes, because his hand's not steady.
View now that crested pigmy imp of pride,
With head erect and consequential stride,
A crookback'd puppet, void of every grace,
In mind, or person, body, speech, or face ;
Whether he's lost or won, he just will deign
To own ; then "Richard is himself again."
Hail to the colonel-captain ! large as life,
Old Buffstick struts in state, amid the strife
Of bells and maces, and, with cue in hand,
He keeps due order 'mongst the green-coat band,
(No easy task) which proves that he at least,
Can claim the title of a *useful beast*.
Hey ! for a black-leg dandy, shambling Ned,
Another greencoat, and a thorough-bred :
A shuffling gamester, a sad chap that would,
Sans scruple, cheat his father, if he could.
"By gar, dat's true, ven ve do play together,"
The count exclaims, a bird of the same feather,
A foreign vagabond, whose pandering skill
And prompt subservience to his master's will,
Gave him the means, to better his condition,
To purchase—yes, to purchase !—a commission ;
Placed on the half-pay list, the angling wretch
Catches at all, and keeps what he can catch.