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BOXIANA;
OR
SKETCHES
OF
ANCIENT AND MODERN
Pugilism;

FROM THE DAYS OF THE RENOWNED
BROUGHTON AND SLACK,
TO
THE HEROES OF THE PRESENT *MILLING* *ÆRA*!

DEDICATED TO THAT DISTINGUISHED PATRON OF THE

Old English Sports,
CAPTAIN BARCLAY.

BY ONE OF THE FANCY.

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M.DCCC.XII.

BILL RICHMOND:

(A MAN OF COLOUR, AND A NATIVE OF AMERICA.)

I will a round unvarnished tale deliver,
Of the *mills*, skirmishes, TURN-UPS, *spars*,
That I have past.

This pugilistic hero was born at Sturton Island, at a place called Cuckold's Town, otherwise *Richmond*, contiguous to New York in America, on August 5, 1763, under the auspices of a reverend divine of the name of *Charlton*. When Sturton Island was taken by the English, young RICHMOND engaged the attention of General Earl PERCY, (the present Duke of NORTHUMBERLAND,) who took him under his protection as his servant, and after travelling with the Earl abroad for some time, he arrived in England about the year 1777. The Duke finding BILL to possess a good capacity, and being an intelligent youth, had him put to school in Yorkshire, where he received a tolerably good education; and who afterwards apprenticed RICHMOND to the trade of a Cabinet Maker, in the ancient City of York, where he served his time faithfully, and followed his business for a considerable time, not only in the above City, but in the Metropolis, as a Journeyman, with credit to himself, and respected by his employers.

BILL's first display in the pugilistic art which brought him into notice, was with one *George Moore*, a recruit, under Captain Connor, of the 19th Regiment, better known by the name of *Docky Moore*, who insulted RICHMOND upon the Course at York, during the time of the Races. This *Docky* had been the terror of Sheffield, and had ruled the *roast* for some time in that part of the country; in fact, he was elegantly proportioned, possessing considerable strength, and all the necessary requisites for *milling*; in height about five feet nine inches and a half, and weighing fourteen stone.



RICHMOND.



MOLINEUX.

The friends of RICHMOND persuaded him from attempting to fight with such a man, BILL only weighing ten stone twelve pounds; the *chance* being positively against him, but he was not to be deterred; and the event proved his judgment correct, for in the course of twenty-five minutes, our hero *punished* DOCKY so completely, that he *gave in*, and was taken out of the ring totally blind.

On the same Course, not long after the above *set-to*, RICHMOND beat two soldiers, one after the other, belonging to the Inniskillin Dragoons.

RICHMOND's *milling* qualities rather getting abroad, a few of the lads who had a *bit of fight* in their compositions, envied his success; and one, in particular, a blacksmith, weighing thirteen stone, and in height about five feet ten inches, took the following method of provoking BILL to have a *brush*.—RICHMOND was noticed in York for going smart and appearing clean after he had done his work, when he met this *hammer-man* one evening, as he was taking a walk, who not only insulted him with opprobrious epithets, but gave him a *kick* on the thigh. BILL remonstrated with him on the impropriety of his behaviour, and told the blacksmith, that if he wanted to fight him, he should be accommodated at the *Groves*, on the next morning, to which they agreed to meet, when this *son of Vulcan* was completely *satisfied*, and acknowledged RICHMOND the best man.

RICHMOND, in passing through the streets of York, one evening, with a female under his protection, was accosted by one *Frank Myers*, with the epithets of "*black devil*," &c. and who otherwise insulted the young woman for being in company with a *man of colour*. BILL, full of gallantry, and with a becoming spirit of indignation, requested him to desist for the present moment, but to meet him at the *Groves* on the next Monday morning, when they would settle this difference, (the circumstance happening on a Saturday night,) to which *Myers* agreed. This affair of honour being *buzzed* about on the Sunday, a great concourse of people assembled early the next day to witness the conflict: RICHMOND was there at the appointed hour, and after

suffering considerable time to elapse, and *Myers* not making his appearance, the spectators became impatient, and it was judged expedient that *RICHMOND* and his friends should repair to the house of *Myers*, to remind him of his engagement. This *Myers* kept a bagnio, with a woman of the name of *Shepherd*, at Uggleford, to which place they went and found *Myers*, who, after some hesitation, agreed to go to the *Groves*, where he was followed by this *shepherdess* and her *flock*. The battle now commenced and raged with fury for some time, but upon *Myers* getting the worst of it, the above *Covess* and her damsels rushed into the ring to prevent their *Bully* from being annihilated, and took him away; but the spectators interfering, persuaded *Myers* to return and finish the battle like a man, who being ashamed of his conduct, agreed to it, when *RICHMOND* soon taught him very properly to acknowledge, that it was wrong, and beneath the character of an Englishman, to abuse any individual for that he could not help—either on account of his *COUNTRY* or his *colour*. *Myers*, very properly, received a complete *milling*.

RICHMOND's first public *set-to* in London was with a whip-maker of the name of *Green*, from Saffron Hill, in the fields, near White Conduit House. *Medley*'s brother seconded *RICHMOND*, who got the whip-hand of *Green* in such good style, that in ten minutes he cried out—*enough!*

At Blackheath, on May 21, 1805, for a purse of ten guineas, *RICHMOND* entered the lists with one *Youssop*, a Jew. It was a well contested battle, and the courage displayed on both sides reflected credit on the combatants, as neither of them fell without a knock-down blow: except once, when *RICHMOND* slipped. For the first two rounds *Youssop* took the lead; and maintained this advantage in the third round, by nearly driving *RICHMOND* out of the ring; but in the fourth the scene was changed, and the superiority of the *science* of *BILL* was manifest, who followed up *Youssop* in the most determined manner, putting in some tremendous *facers*, that by the end of the sixth round, the countenance of the Jew was much changed, from the severe *punishment* he had received, that he *gave in*.

From the above battle, RICHMOND's fame, as a pugilist, had considerably increased, and *Mr. Fletcher Reid* backed him against *Jack Holmes*, the Coachman, who had so nobly contested for the palm of victory with *Tom Tough*. They entered the lists at Cricklewood Green, a short distance from Kilburn Wells, on July 8th, 1805, in a twenty-one feet roped ring. RICHMOND was seconded by *Tom Jones*, and *Tom Tough* attended upon *Holmes*.

First round—Considerable *science* displayed on both sides, and *Holmes* appeared full of gaiety and in good condition; but no blows that *told* passed between them.

Second—A smart rally on both sides, but no falling.

Third—RICHMOND very neatly put in a good blow, but fell. Two to one on *Holmes*.

Sixth—The last three rounds nothing important transpired.

Seventh—The combatants both on their mettle, and who displayed the science of boxing manfully. The gaiety of RICHMOND was conspicuous, quite full of *milling*, and some excellent hits were exchanged.

Eighth—*Coachee* appeared as if he had been driving too fast, and that he had *out-rode* his wind. *Holmes* was distressed, but notwithstanding bets were in his favour three to two.

Ninth—This round commenced with sparring; but RICHMOND, with much dexterity, put in a most tremendous hit under his opponent's right eye, that left a severe gash, when *Holmes* fell from its severity.

Tenth—The combatants both closed and fell. Even betting.

Eleventh—This proved a most excellent round, and considered the best in the battle, they fought manfully, and both rallied in good style; when RICHMOND put an end to the round, by bringing down *Holmes*.

Fifteenth—Of no import. *Holmes* appeared exceedingly weak, and his wind was nearly exhausted.

Sixteenth—Both closed and fell, *Holmes* undermost.—The odds had now undergone a material change. Three to one on RICHMOND.

Twenty-fourth—*Holmes* was fast declining, and the rounds were nearly all hugging.

Twenty-fifth—RICHMOND, full of gaiety, shewed himself to great advantage, and left his antagonist little, if any, chance to win.

Twenty-sixth—On setting-to, RICHMOND, *sans ceremonie*, levelled *Coachee*; who, however reluctant, was obliged to confess he had arrived at the end of his journey, it having lasted thirty-nine minutes.

RICHMOND now entered into a very unequal contest with Tom Crib. See page 392.

BILL, for a subscription pursé of fifteen guineas, fought with a countryman of the name of *Carter*, from Nuneaton, near Birmingham, on Epsom Downs, on April 14, 1809. CARTER was much the strongest and heavier man than RICHMOND; and who in a *turn-up* with those heroes of the fist, *Jem Belcher* and *Jack Gulley*, had convinced *them* both, that he was no TRIFLER; and now having expressed his fancy for a *mill* with Mr. RICHMOND, BILL without hesitation informed CARTER, that he should be accommodated with a trial of skill; *Paddington Jones* and *Bob Clarke* seconding RICHMOND. Upon *setting-to* the odds were seven to one against the *Man of Colour*, and in the fourth round the odds ran so high against RICHMOND, that twenty to one was sported that *Carter* won the battle, and ten to one that BILL did not come again; which was occasioned from a severe blow that RICHMOND had received on the side of his head, that he laid nearly senseless: but BILL soon recovering from this momentary disadvantage, showed off his *science* in such good style, that in the course of twenty-five minutes, *Carter* was *punished* most dreadfully indeed, and resigned the contest. Immediately upon this being declared, RICHMOND jumped over the ropes, and caught hold of a man, denominated *china-eyed Brown*, threatening to *serve him out*, (if he had not been prevented,) as it appeared that *Brown* had loudly vociferated, during the time RICHMOND was suffering from the effects of the above blow, that BILL *had got a white feather in his tail!* RICHMOND was patronized upon the above occasion by Sir Clement Brigg, Bart.

In seconding a baker a few months after the above circumstance, near Wilsden Green, a man of the same trade, weighing close upon seventeen stone, challenged RICHMOND on the spot, when a *turn-up* commenced, and in about two minutes the baker's *dough* was so

well *kneaded*, that he would have no more of it at that time: offering to fight RICHMOND for £50 in a month, which was agreed to by BILL: and two guineas put down to make the bets good before that period—but the baker, it appeared, preferred losing his two *quid*, than submitting his overgrown carcase to the *punishment* of RICHMOND.

BILL fought a man of the name of *Atkinson*, from Baubury, at Golder's Green, near Hendon, a bargeman, for a subscription purse: it was a good fight, but in the course of twenty minutes *Atkinson* was perfectly *satisfied* the *chance* was against him, and who acknowledged that he was beaten.

Isaac Wood, a waterman, a man of determined spirit, and not unacquainted with the principles of boxing, fought with RICHMOND, at Combe Wood, on April 9th. 1809, in a twenty-five feet ring. *Wood* was attended by *Crib* and *Cropley*; and *Paddington Jones* and *Clarke* seconded RICHMOND.

First round.—On setting-to, a little sparring took place, when RICHMOND put in a severe left handed blow on *Wood's* jaw, who rallied, but was thrown. Seven to four on RICHMOND.

Second.—*Wood* attempted to put in a hit, which RICHMOND warded off, and returned right and left; in closing, they both fell.

Third.—Good courage displayed on both sides; *Wood* commenced a rally, in which good blows were exchanged; but the *science* displayed by RICHMOND was so much superior to that of his opponent, who now was thrown, that the odds were two to one against *Wood*.

Fourth.—In this early stage of the fight, it appeared how things were going—RICHMOND in making play planted a successful right hand hit; upon which *Wood* endeavoured to rally, when RICHMOND stopped both right and left, and obtained the lead so conspicuously, that *Wood* was completely abroad, and not only *punished* round the ring, but thrown over the ropes. Four to one against *Wood*.

Fifth.—*Wood* striving to appear well before the spectators made play, and rallied in good style; when blows were exchanged for half a minute at half arm's length; but completely in favour of RICHMOND, who, in closing, threw his opponent. Betting all one way.

Sixth.—The *nob* of *Wood* now cut a terrible figure, from its punished appearance. *RICHMOND* rallied; but *Wood* fell from exhaustion.

Seventh.—A rally on both sides, when *Wood* was thrown.

Eighth.—*RICHMOND*, in not being correct in his *distance*, turned the advantage of this round rather in favour of *Wood*, who not only put in two hits, but threw his opponent.

Ninth.—In making play, *RICHMOND* slipped.

Tenth.—An excellent round, in which a good show of fighting was exhibited, the combatants contending against each other with considerable resolution and effect—hitting at full length, until they both went down.

Eleventh.—*Wood* convinced not only his antagonist, but the spectators, that however he might be deficient in *science*, he was not wanting in *bottom*—a good rally commenced; but, in closing, *RICHMOND* fibbed *Wood* so severely that the blood flowed in torrents, when they both went down exhausted.

Twelfth.—*Wood* seemed *done-up*, in respect of turning the *chance* in his favour; and *RICHMOND* milled him most terribly by three following *facers*—then rallying the waterman to the ropes, when he went over him in a summerset.

Fourteenth.—*RICHMOND* conspicuous; who threw his opponent.

Fifteenth.—This round, though not putting an end to the contest, clearly shewed how it must terminate. The courage of *Wood* was still good, but *RICHMOND* successfully planted three hits on his *nob*, and the waterman was not able to return; yet, notwithstanding it was going so much against him, his *bottom* enabled him to hold out till the

Twenty-third.—When *Wood* was again sent down by *RICHMOND*, which had ran his *bout* so *fast a-ground*, that he could not come to his time, when *RICHMOND* was pronounced the conqueror. *BILL* appeared but little hurt.

RICHMOND again entered the lists with that brave hero of the fist, *George Maddox*, on the coast near Margate, for 100 guineas, on the 9th of August, 1809. Five years previous to which, *RICHMOND* had a *turn-up* with the above pugilist, when, after contending three rounds, he resigned the contest; *BILL*, at that time, was but little known to the metropolitan boxers; but who having considerably increased in fame and *science*, this match was made to put the matter in doubt beyond all question; and it is but justice to observe, that few

better battles were ever witnessed; when, after fifty-two minutes obstinately contended, RICHMOND was declared the conqueror. (See page 212).

A subscription purse being made up on the *spur of the moment*, after a dinner of Amateurs, at *Bob's Chop House*, on May 1st, 1810, intended for *Dogherty* and *Power* to have entered the lists to obtain it, but upon the latter not being found, it was otherwise disposed of. It appears, that *Power* had been out spending the day, and in his way home, rather late in the evening, accidentally called in at *Bob's* to take a glass; who *avers*, that being completely inebriated, on being asked to have a *set-to*, he positively denied, requesting that he might fight RICHMOND when he was perfectly sober; but being much pressed, after taking two or three glasses of wine, he accepted of the challenge, and another purse being subscribed, the *brush* commenced! RICHMOND was seconded by an Honourable Baronet, and *Crib*—and *Power*, by a Colonel of distinction, and *Bill Gibbons*. In a quarter of an hour, RICHMOND was declared the conqueror; and who received the sum appropriated for the victor. *Power* attributes this defeat to inebriation; but RICHMOND asserts, that he was very far from an intoxicated state; and that he, RICHMOND, laboured under considerable disadvantage in having seconded young *Crib* for fifty-six minutes against *Dogherty*, but 2 or 3 hours previous to his *set-to* with *Power*. Considerable acrimony has subsisted between the parties ever since, concerning *superiority*, both claiming it; more will be observed hereafter.

It appears, that RICHMOND is entitled to a respectable *niche* among the portraits of first-rate heroes of the *millling art*—both as a theoretical and practical pugilist; that his knowledge of the *science* is completely intuitive, having never received any lessons from any of the Professors; but, on the contrary, has given instructions to some hundreds, not only in various parts of the kingdom, but in the very zenith of competition—LONDON. In the ring, in point of activity, he stands nearly unrivalled; and who is considered to excel every other pugilist in *hitting* and *getting away*, and dealing out severe *punishment* with his left hand; and it is also said of *BILL*, that for half an hour there is

no danger in backing him for that period with any of the fighting men, although fifty years of age, (a length of time that few boxers arrive at); his appearance to a common observer portrays no more than about thirty-five, enjoying a good state of health, and not unmindful that it is necessary to preserve it. And what appears rather singular is, that at a time of life, when other pugilists have long previous retired from the scene of action, the spirits of RICHMOND seem in such trim, that with all the ardency of youth, he is still "eager for the fray;" and of whom there is little doubt, if he was but in possession of that quality (which must be served) YOUTH—he would not be wanting of the support of the most distinguished in the *Fancy*, to become a leading boxer.

In being a *Man of Colour*, from the taunts and insults which he has received upon that account, particularly in his capacity as a publican, when he kept the Horse and Dolphin, RICHMOND must be considered good tempered and placid, even to a degree that could not be expected. In one of those instances of unmerited reproach, his indignation would no longer let him remain quiet, and in a *turn up* with the young Ruffian, at his own house, he completely *served him out*!

RICHMOND acquired considerable notoriety from his patronage of *Molineaux*; and, as far as we can learn, from the most impartial sources, his generous behaviour to that pugilist, who came to him an entire stranger, destitute of friends or money, he has experienced a very different return, from what might have been expected; difference of opinion, however, may exist as to this subject, but it is certain, *Molineaux* was indebted for that patronage and attention which he afterwards received from persons of distinction, in originating entirely from his introduction by RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, after the late contest between *Molineaux* and *Carter*, challenged either of them for £100.

RICHMOND is an active, excellent *second*, and from his temperate mode of living, preferring exercise to wasting his time; or injuring his constitution, by a too frequent repetition of the charms of the bottle, he has obtained the character of being a good and steady *trainer*; and notwithstanding the defect in one of his knees, we are informed he excels as a cricketer.

BILL, in company with other pugilists, has exhibited his knowledge of the SCIENCE, in the metropolis, at the *Olympic Pavilion* and *Regency Theatres*, with satisfaction and applause from numerous audiences.

In concluding this sketch, we cannot omit stating of our hero, that he is intelligent, communicative, and well behaved; and however actively engaged in promulgating the principle of *milling*, he is not so completely absorbed with *fighting*, as to be incapable of discoursing upon any other subject; in fact, he is rather facetious over a glass of Noyeau, his favourite *wet* with a SWELL, and endeavours to gain his point by attempting to *prove* that there is more certainty in his *preservation of bodies*, (in allusion to his method of *training*) than either the *cobler* or *parson*, in their taking care of the "*soles*!" He has much more to say than many who style themselves "*Amateurs*;" but was never known to be so deficient in eloquence, as when *Molineaux* experienced defeat! His experience, in LIFE, has taught him to be *awake* to the tricks of it; and there are few subjects upon which he suffers himself to be *lulled to sleep*; and notwithstanding many do sport stylish *nobs*, it cannot be denied to him, that he wears a *head*; and although its *colour* may not preposses the *million* in its favour, yet the liberal part of mankind will acquiesce with the sentiments of *Desdemona*, "*the visage*" may be "*seen in the mind*!"

'Tis not a set of features, or complexion,
The tincture of a skin, that I admire.
Beauty soon grows familiar to the lover,
Fades in his eye, and palls upon the sense.

He seems to feel the *situation* in which he is *placed in Society*, and endeavours to keep it—and in the temporary elevation of the moment, he still recollects, that however the CORINTHIAN FANCIER may closely connect himself with *milling*, there are times when he has a different *character to support*, and must not be intruded upon. BOXIANA will do its duty—and as far as the infirmities of human nature can be admitted—neither colour, strength, patronage, or any other consideration, shall tempt it to swerve from IMPARTIALITY.