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Everybody's Friend, or; Josh Billing's Encylopedia and Proverbial Philosophy of Wit and Humor

Josh Billings

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Everybody's Friend, or; Josh Billing's Encylopedia and Proverbial Philosophy of Wit and Humor Josh Billings
Everybody's Friend, or; Josh Billing's Encyclopedia and Proverbial Philosophy of Wit and Humor, Profusely Illustrated by Thomas Nast and Other Artists
x, 610 pp. 8 7/8 x 6 1/4. A scarce original edition. Original full leather binding, black leather spine, gilt titles & rules. Etching of author by H.B. Hall as frontispiece, numerous illustrations by the famous Thomas Nast and others throughout text. ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Josh Billings was the pen name of humorist born Henry Wheeler Shaw (20 April 1818 ? 14 October 1885). He was perhaps the second most famous humor writer and lecturer in the United States in the second half of the 19th century after Mark Twain, although his reputation has not fared so well with later generations. Shaw was born in Lanesborough, Massachusetts, and worked as a farmer, coal miner, explorer, and auctioneer before he began making a living as a journalist and writer in Poughkeepsie, New York, in 1858. Under the pseudonym "Josh Billings" he wrote in an informal voice full of the slang of the day, with often eccentric phonetic spelling, dispensing wit and folksy common-sense wisdom. His books include Farmers' Allminax, Josh Billings' Sayings, Everybody's Friend, Choice Bits of American Wit and Josh Billings' Trump Kards. His saying, "In the whole history of the world there is but one thing that money can not buy... to wit the wag of a dog's tail" appears at the beginning of the Disney film Lady and the Tramp. He toured, giving lectures of his writings, which were very popular with the audiences of the day. Billings died in Monterey, California. Billings' death is described in Chapter 12 of John Steinbeck's fictional Cannery Row. According to Steinbeck's homage, Billings died in the the Hotel del Monte in Monterey after which his body was delivered for burial preparation by the local constable to the town's only doctor, who also doubled as an amateur mortician. The doctor, per his usual embalming protocol, dispensed of Billings'...

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