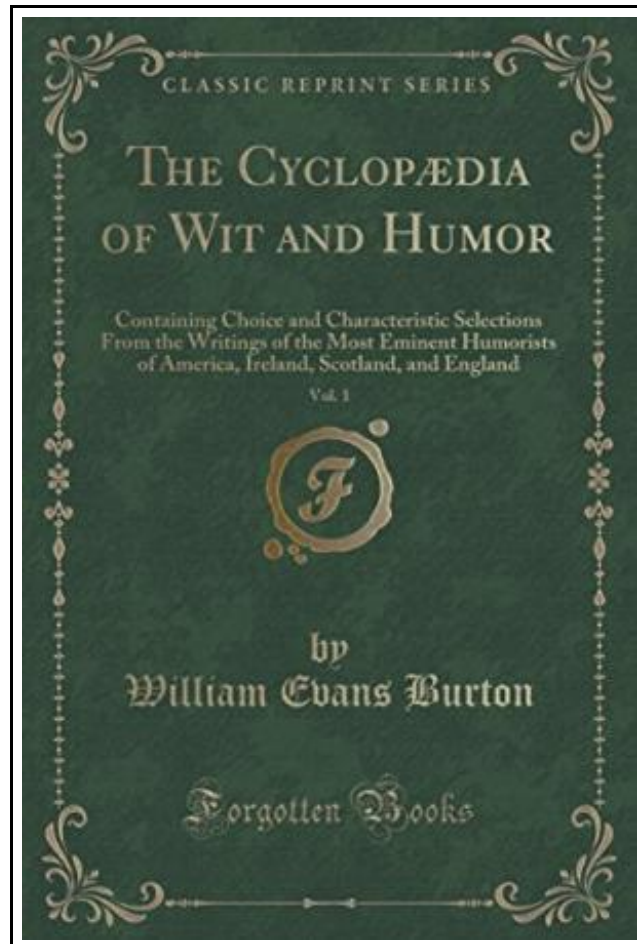


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from **The Cyclopaedia of Wit and Humor, Vol. 1: Containing Choice and Characteristic Selections From the Writings of the Most Eminent Humorists of America, Ireland, Scotland, and England** What constitutes Wit? Wherein is Wit different from Humor! These questions have exercised the pens of various searching expositors, who, in analytical language and graceful periods, prove the truth of the essayist's remark, that it requires Wit to describe what Wit is. Aristotle, Barrow, Dryden, La Bruyere, Bouhours, Montaigne, Locke, Voltaire, Addison, Cowley, Pope, Davison, Leigh Hunt, Hazlitt, Charles Lamb, Sydney Smith - all good men and true - have enlivened the pensive public with their several definitions, but an acceptable and satisfactory standard of authority has not yet been given. In the prescribed limits of a preface, it would be supererogatory to promulgate any new dogma, or attempt to controvert the hypotheses and pleasant perorations of the many celebrated writers named above. But sufficient evidence may be cited in proof that as yet the Anatomy of Wit and Humor is an unwritten book. Dr. Barrow, in his Sermon against Foolish and Idle Talking and Jesting, has given an able and comprehensive exposition of the habitudes and actualities of Wit. It is worthy of being quoted entire. It may be demanded what thing we speak of is, or what this facetiousness doth import. It is indeed a thing so versatile and multiform, appearing in so many shapes, so many postures, so many garbs, so variously apprehended by several eyes and judgments, that it seemeth no less hard to settle a clear and certain notion thereof, than to make a portrait of Proteus, or to define the figure...

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