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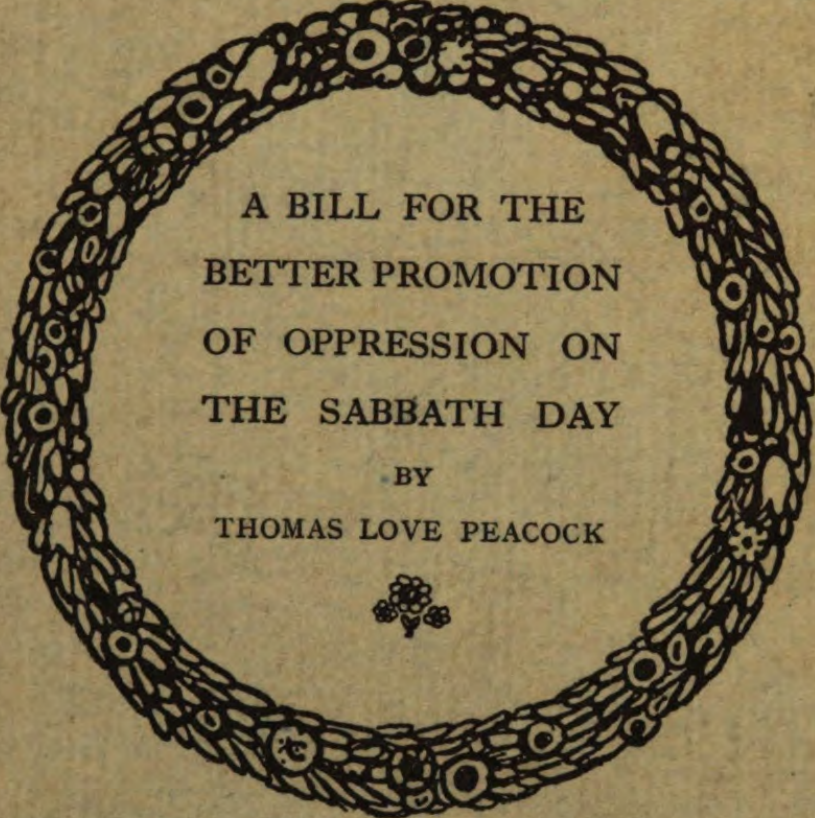
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A BILL FOR THE
BETTER PROMOTION
OF OPPRESSION ON
THE SABBATH DAY

BY
THOMAS LOVE PEACOCK



280.

f. 2494.

Bt from Sims. cat. 60 / 482 151-

280 f. 2494



*50 copies of this book have been privately
printed at the Curwen Press, Plaistow, for
H. V. Marrot, Esq., October, 1926.
Decorations by Lovat Fraser*

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PROMOTION OF OPPRESSION
ON THE SABBATH DAY



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PRIVATELY PRINTED



A¹BILL FOR THE BETTER
PROMOTION OF OPPRESSION
ON THE SABBATH DAY



FORASMUCH as the Canter's and Fanatic's
Lord
Sayeth peace and joy are by me abhorred;
And would fill each Sunday with gloom and
pain
For all too poor his regard to obtain;
And forasmuch as the laws heretofore
Have not sufficiently squeezed the poor;
Be it therefore enacted by Commons, King
And Lords, a crime for anything
To be done on the Sabbath by any rank
Excepting the rich. No beer may be drank,
Food eaten, rest taken, away from home
And each House shall a Sunday prison be-
come;
And spies and jailors must carefully see,
Under severest penalty,
None stirs but to conventicle,

¹[New] original reading cancelled in MS.

Thrice a day ¹at toll of bell.¹
And each sickly cit who dare engage
His place by steamer, fly or stage,
With owner thereof shall by this said bill,
Be punished with fine, imprisonment or
treadmill.

²But nothing herein is designed to discourage
Priest, noble or squire from the use of his
carriage.²

No Ship shall move however it blow,
The Devil a bit shall said ship go
Whether the winds will let it or no ;
And, as winds and weather we cannot im-
prison,
Owners, captain and sailors we therefore
shall seize on.

And whereas oxen, lambs and sheep
About the roads and lanes will creep,
[And wicked puppies, dogs and cats
And billy goats and mice and rats]³
And cocks and hens and ducks and geese
Will not on Sunday hold their peace,
Be it enacted that foresaid beasts,

¹*To be sent to hell.* Original text cancelled and above
reading substituted in MS.

²These two lines are an afterthought, and inserted
after the piece was written.

³Cancelled by the Author in the MS.

If not belonging to gentry or priests,
Be caught and whipped and pounded on
Sunday,

And sold to pay expences on Monday.
The drunkard, who paid five shillings before
Shall now pay twenty shillings more;
And mine host, if on Sabbath he dare un-
loose

A bolt, shall be fined and his license loose.
All oranges, cakes and lollypop
Shall be seized; and every open shop
Shall be fined a pound an hour till it stop.
Till nine the milkman may ply his trade,
For pious breakfasts must be made
At the risk of his soul. And the Bakers at last,
When the poor man's dinner is clearly past,
Must set to work, the godly scorning
Stale rolls and bread on a Monday morning.
That justices may have less to do,
'Tis enacted they may convict on view,
And shall, if they think the course more
drastic,

Transfer to Courts Ecclesiastic.
All informers shall pass scot free,
However false their averments may be;
And witnesses who have no mind
To convict shall be imprisoned and fined.
And whereas from this act's operation

Are exempted the following ranks in this nation:

The rich man's servants; they cannot be spared

(In spite of the Scripture) from working hard;

Milkmen in the morning; at evening the bakers,

With Constables, Doctors, thieves, parsons, toll-takers;

And parties for music, gambling or dinners
Are hereby exempt, when the rich are the Sinners;

For no party whatever has aught to fear
From said act who has more than £500 a year.



