

J. PITMAN, BOOT AND SHOE MAKER, WEST MEDFORD,

Near the Depot, - - - Usher's Block.

The Subscriber takes this method to inform his friends and the public generally of West Medford, that he has opened a shop for the Manufacture of Custom **BOOTS AND SHOES** at the above place.

Gentlemen in want of First Class **BOOTS** or **SHOES**, will find it to their advantage to give him a call.

Having been in business in Boston for the past 25 years, I think I can fit and please the most fastidious.

Heels Put on Ladies' Boots in a Superior Manner.

GENT'S WROUGHT SLIPPERS MADE TO ORDER.

RUBBER SOLES applied to Boots and Shoes, and **RUBBERS REPAIRED.**

All kinds of BOOTS and SHOES repaired in the neatest and most substantial manner.

Should Pitman's shop be e'er forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Oh no, my friends, forget it not,
Whilst it you still may find.
The Boots he makes are wondrous good,
His cobbling it is fine,
His ladies' heels can't be surpassed,
They're nice, and high, and shine!

His Congress, they are noted still,
His motto is prepare,
To take his measures with a will,
Do come and try a pair.
If you come once you'll come again,
He makes boots to your mind,
They fit so nice, they set so snug,
Come — if you can raise the wind!

As Patent Boots, Congress and Long,
Are all the go and rage,
Let Pitman but get hold your foot,
He'll fit you and amaze.
So one and all, both old and young,
Bring Boots or Shoes for Cobbling,
He'll do it well, and charge you low,
And save you all from grumbling.

If your Rubber Boots or Shoes give out,
And patching they want sadly,
He can patch or heel your Boots or Shoes,
And do it neat and handy.
Your foot-balls Boys, if they lose their wind,
Bring on, for he can stop it,
And lest you may say I'm windy too,
I think I'd better drop it.

NOT SHAKESPEARE

Not Shakespeare. (probably pseudonym of John Pitman)

(Football broadside, caption title): *J. Pitman, Boot and Shoe Maker. West Medford, Near the Depot, Usher's Block*

West Medford, [Massachusetts: circa 1872]

\$1500

**J. PITMAN,
BOOT AND SHOE MAKER,
WEST MEDFORD,
Near the Depot, - - - - Usher's Block.**

Broadside printed in gold on indigo dyed glazed paper. Approximately 8½" x 11". One small marginal tear else fine. A broadside advertising Pitman's shop through the use of poetic doggerel, signed as "Not Shakespeare". After giving his qualifications as a bootmaker in Boston for 25 years, Pitman concludes with a poem. The first three stanzas of the poem laud the cobbler's skill in repairing boots and shoes, the fourth and final stanza calls out to deliver unto him "Your foot-balls Boys, If they lose their wind, bring on for he can stop it. And lest you say I'm windy too, I think I'd better drop it." According to the *Medford Historical Society Papers*, "Jon Pitman, the fat and jolly boot maker, who kept the old curiosity shop in Brattle street..." opened his West Medford shop around 1872, for a brief period.

This broadside, a fascinating example of printing with gold stamping on indigo dyed paper, is reminiscent of the Japanese textiles that were brought into the United States shortly after Commodore Perry opened trade with Japan. An early and informal version of American style football was played in the Boston area as early as the late 1850s that then evolved further when the first college football game was held in the Fall of 1869. This playful and waggish exhortation for boys to bring their deflated footballs to the jolly boot maker must certainly qualify as one of the earliest references in print to the new sport, and almost certainly the earliest poem to incorporate the sport. It is certainly the earliest we've seen offered for sale. According to Grobani. *Guide to Football Literature* one published book on American football

precedes this mention, *Beadle's Dime Book of Cricket and Football* (1866, Grobani 1-1). OCLC locates no copies of this broadside.

[BTC#420219]

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