# ENGLISH FOLK SONGS

COLLECTED AND ARRANGED WITH PIANOFORTE ACCOMPANIMENT

# CECIL J. SHARP

SELECTED EDITION

VOLUME II

## SONGS AND BALLADS

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## PREFACE.

THIS Selected Edition will contain in one complete series of volumes those songs, ballads, carols, chanteys, &c., from the Author's Collection of traditional music which, in his opinion, are the most characteristic and most suitable for purposes of publication.

The Collection is the product of twenty years' work in the towns and country districts of England and among the English inhabitants of the Southern Appalachian Mountains of North America, and comprises counting variants, and dance, as well as vocal, airs—some five thousand tunes. A certain number of these have been published from time to time during the period of collection but, as the Somerset Series, in which the bulk of these appeared, is now out of print, and as, moreover, further additions are unlikely to be made to it, the Collection can now be reviewed as a whole unfettered by past commitments. Even so, the task of making a judicious choice from so large a mass of material is a very difficult one except, perhaps, from those that have already been issued and upon which a measure of popular judgment has been passed.

It should be added that wherever a song that has already been published is included in this Edition the text has been revised by comparing it with later variants, and the accompaniment refreshed or rewritten.

Of the songs in this volume Nos. 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 22, 30, 36, and 48 have not before been published in England. Nos. 11, 20, 29, 35, 38, and 50 have already been issued in various publications; while the remaining numbers are from *Folk Songs from Somerset*.

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#### No. 1. Lord Rendal.

THIS ballad is sung very freely from one end of the island to the other. I have taken it down at least twenty times in England and nearly as many times in America.

The words given in the text have been compiled from different sets, but none of them have been altered.

One of the earliest printed versions of this ballad is in Johnson's *The Scots Musical Museum* (1787-1803) under the heading "Lord Ronald my Son"; and that is a fragment only. The "Willy Doo" in Buchan's *Ancient Ballads* (1828) is the same song; see also "Portmore" in the same volume.

Sir Walter Scott, in *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border* (1828), calls it "Lord Randal," and thinks it not impossible "that the ballad may have originally referred to the death of Thomas Randolph, or Randal, Earl of Murray, nephew to Robert Bruce and governor of Scotland. This great warrior died at Musselburgh, 1332, at the moment when his services were most needed by his country, already threatened by an English army. For this sole reason, perhaps, our historians obstinately impute his death to poison." But, of course, Sir Walter did not know how many countries have the ballad.

A nursery version of the ballad is quoted in Whitelaw's *Book of Scottish Ballads*, under the title, "The Croodlin Doo" (Cooing Dove). Jamieson gives a Suffolk

variant, and also a translation of the German version of the same song, called "Grossmutter Schlangenkoechin," that is, Grandmother Adder-cook. The German version is like ours in that it attributes the poisoning to snakes, not toads, which is the Scottish tradition. Kinloch remarks: "Might not the Scots proverbial phrase, 'To gie one frogs instead of fish,' as meaning to substitute what is bad or disagreeable, for expected good, be viewed as allied to the idea of the venomous quality of the toad?" Sir Walter Scott quotes from a manuscript Chronicle of England which describes in quaint language how King John was poisoned by a concoction of toads: "Tho went the monke into a gardene, and fonde a tode therin; and toke her upp, and put hyr in a cuppe, and filled it with good ale, and pryked hyr in every place, in the cuppe, till the venom came out in every place; and brought hitt befor the kynge, and knelyd, and said, 'Sir, wassayle; for never in your lyfe dranck ye of such a cuppe.'"

A very beautiful version of the song is given in *A Garland of Country Song*, No. 38. In the note, Mr. Baring-Gould remarks that the ballad is not only popularly known in England and Ireland, but it has also been noted down in Italy, Germany, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Hungary, Bohemia, and Iceland. The ballad is exhaustively dealt with by Child (No. 12).

The West Country expression "spickit and sparkit" means "speckled and blotched."

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For other versions with tunes, see the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume ii., pp. 29-32; volume iii., p. 43; volume v., pp. 244-248); and English Folk-Songs from the Southern Appalachians.

#### No. 2. The Briery Bush.

THE lines printed in the text are as the singer of this version sang them, with the exception of the last stanza, which I have borrowed from a variant collected elsewhere. For other versions with tunes, see English County Songs (p. 112); English Folk-Songs from the Southern Appalachians; and the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume v., pp. 228-235), with a long and exhaustive note.

Under the heading of "The Maid freed from the Gallows" (English and Scottish Ballads, No. 95) Child gives several versions and shows that the ballad is very generally known throughout Northern and Southern Europe—nearly fifty versions have been collected in Finland. In the foreign forms of the ballad, the victim usually falls into the hands of corsairs or pirates, who demand ransom, but none of the English versions account in any way for the situation.

Child also quotes another English variant communicated by Dr. Birkbeck Hill in 1890, "as learned forty years before from a schoolfellow who came from the North of Somerset." This is very much like the version given in the text, the first two lines of the refrain running :

> Oh the briers, prickly briers, Come prick my heart so sore

The Rev. S. Baring-Gould, in the appendix to Henderson's *Notes on the Folk-Lore of the Northern Counties of England* (p. 333, ed. 1866), gives a Yorkshire story, "The Golden Ball," which concludes with verses very similar to those of "The Briery Bush." A man gives a ball to each of two maidens, with the condition that if either of them loses the ball, she is to be hanged. The younger, while playing, tosses her ball over a park-paling; the ball rolls away over the grass into a house and is seen no more. She is condemned to be hanged, and calls upon her father, mother, etc., for assistance, her lover finally procuring her release by producing the lost ball.

Child quotes a Cornish variant of the same story, communicated to him by Mr. Baring-Gould.

That the ballad is a very ancient one may be inferred from the peculiar form of its construction—sometimes called the "climax of relatives." The same scheme is used in the latter half of "Lord Rendal" (No. 1), and is one that lends itself very readily to improvisation

#### No. 3. Blow away the Morning Dew.

THIS is a shortened form of "The Baffled Knight, or Lady's Policy" (Percy's *Reliques*). The words beginning "Yonder comes a courteous knight" are preserved in *Deuteromelia*, 1609, and in *Pills to Purge Melancholy* (volume iii., p. 37, ed. 1719). A tune to which this ballad was once sung is to be found in Rimbault's *Music to Reliques of Ancient Poetry*. See also "Blow the winds I ho!" in Bell's "*Ballads of the English Peasantry*, and "Blow away ye mountain breezes," in Baring-Gould's Songs of the *West* (No. 25, 2d ed.).

A Scottish version of the words, "Jock Sheep," is given in *The Ballad Book* (Kinloch and Goldsmid, p. 10); and another, "The Abashed Knight," in Buchan's *Ancient Ballads and Songs* (volume ii., p. 131). For other versions, see Child's collection (No. 112). I have secured thirteen variants, one of which was used as a Capstan Chantey.

#### No. 4. The Two Magicians.

THIS is, I believe, the only copy of this ballad that has as yet been collected in England. The tune, which, of course, is modern, is a variant of one which was used for a series of humorous songs of the "exaggeration" type that was very popular in the 18th and 19th centuries, of which "The Crocodile" (*English County Songs*, p. 184) is an example.

The words were first printed, I believe, in 1828 in Buchan's Ancient Ballads and Songs (volume i., p. 24), together with the following comment: "There is a novelty in this legendary ballad very amusing, and it must be very old. I never saw anything in print which had the smallest resemblance to it." It has been necessary to make one or two small alterations in the words.

Child (English and Scottish Ballads, volume i., p. 244) prints Buchan's version and says: "This is a base born cousin of a pretty ballad known all over Southern Europe and elsewhere, and in especially graceful forms in France."

"The French ballad generally begins with a young man's announcing that he has won a mistress, and intends to pay her a visit on Sunday, or to give her an aubade. She declines his visit or his music. To avoid him she will turn, e.g., into a rose; then he will turn bee and kiss her. She will turn quail; he sportsman and bag her. She will turn carp; he angler and catch her. She will turn hare; and he hound. She will turn nun; and he priest and confess her day and night. She will fall sick; he will watch with her or be her doctor. She will become a star; he a cloud and muffle her. She will die; he will turn earth into which they will put her, or into Saint Peter, and receive her into Paradise. In the end she says, 'Since you are inevitable, you may as well have me as another'; or more complaisantly, 'Je me donnerai à toi, puisque tu m'aimes tant.' "

The ballad in varying forms is known in Spain, Italy, Roumania, Greece, Moravia, Poland, and Serbia. See the chapter on "Magical Transformations and Magical Conflict," in Clouston's *Popular Tales and Fiction.* I believe there is a similar story in the *Arabian Nights' Entertainment.* 

#### No. 5. The Duke of Bedford.

THE singer of this ballad, a native of Sheffield, told me that he learned it from his father, who, in turn, had derived it from his father, and that it was regarded by his relatives as a "family relic" and sung at weddings and other important gatherings. The earlier stanzas of the song are undoubtedly traditional, but some of the later ones (omitted in the text) were, I suspect, added by a recent member of the singer's family, or, possibly, derived from a broadside.

The tune, which is in the Æolian mode, has some affinities with the second strain of "The Cuckoo" (volume i., No. 19), an air which is often sung to "High Germany." See also the tune of No. 92 of Joyce's *Ancient Irish Music*.

Three Lincolnshire variants collected by Percy Grainger are printed in the *Journal* of the Folk-Song Society (volume iii., pp. 170-179); and the version in the text, as originally sung to me, in the fifth volume of the same publication (p. 79).

Very full notes have been added to these by Miss Lucy Broadwood in the attempt to throw light on the origin of the historical incident upon which the ballad story is founded. Two other versions have been published in *Longman's Magazine* (volume xvii., p. 217, ed. 1890), and in the *Ballad Society's* edition of the *Roxburghe Ballads* (part xv., volume v., ed. 1885).

Professor Child, reprinting the first of these in his note to "The Death of Queen Jane," remarked that "one half seemed a plagiarism upon that old ballad," and that the remainder of "The Duke of Bedford" was so "trivial" that he had not attempted to identify this duke—"any other duke would probably answer as well." Miss Broadwood has not reached a definite conclusion, but she inclines to the theory that the Duke of the ballad was William De la Pole, first Duke of Suffolk (1396-1450). She admits, however, that there is a good deal of evidence in favour of the Duke of Grafton, son of Charles II., an account of whose death was printed on a broadside, licensed in 1690. She thinks that the ballad given here is probably a mixture of two separate ballads, the more modern of the two (describing hunting) referring to the death of the son of the fourth Duke of Bedford, born in 1739, who was killed by a fall from his horse in 1767. Woburn did not come into the possession of the Bedford family until after the accession of Edward VI.

The last stanza refers to the popular superstition that the flowing of certain streams, known as "woe-waters," was the presage of coming disaster.

#### No. 6. Fair Margaret and Sweet William.

THIS is the only version that I have noted in England, although in America, where the ballad is sung very frequently, I have taken it down thirty times. I have collated the text of my English version with that of one of the American variants. For other versions see Child's English and Scottish Ballads (No. 74); Folk-Songs from Dorset (No. 14); Chappell's Popular Music (volume i., p. 383); Percy's Reliques; and the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume ii., p. 289; volume ii., p. 64).

#### No. 7. The Low, Low Lands of Holland.

ONE of the earliest copies of this ballad is printed in Herd's Ancient and Modern Scottish Songs (volume ii., p. 2, ed. 1776). It is also in the Roxburghe and Ebsworth Collections and in Johnson's Museum. The ballad appears also in Garlands, printed about 1760, as "The Sorrowful Lover's Regrate" and "The Maid's Lamentation for the Loss of her True Love," as well as on broadsides of more recent date. See also the Pedlar's Pack of Ballads (pp. 23-25); the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume i., p. 97; volume iii., p. 307); and Dr. Joyce's Ancient Irish Music (No. 68).

The "vow" verse occurs in "Bonny Bee Hom," a well-known Scottish ballad (Child, No. 92). The words in the text are virtually as I took them down from the singer. The tune is partly Mixolydian. The word "box" in the third stanza is used in the old sense, that is "to hurry."

# No. 8. The Unquiet Grave, or, Cold Blous the Wind.

THIS ballad, of which I have collected a large number of variants, is widely known and sung by English folk-singers. A Scottish version, "Charles Graeme," is in Buchan's Ancient Ballads and Songs; while several traditional versions of the words are printed by Child (No. 78). Compare the ballad of "William and Marjorie" (Motherwell's Minstrelsy, p. 186), and versions of the wellknown "William and Margaret." For variants with tunes, see the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume i., pp. 119 and 192; volume ii., p. 6); English County Songs (p. 34); Songs of the West (p. 12, 2d ed.); and English Traditional Songs and Carols (p. 50). The words of the sixth stanza in the text refer to the ancient belief that a maiden betrothed to a man was pledged to him after his death, and was compelled to follow him into the spirit world unless she was able to perform certain tasks or solve certain riddles that he propounded. In this particular version the position is, of course, reversed, and it is the maiden who lies in the grave. Compare "Scarborough Fair" (No. 22).

#### No. 9. The Trees they do grow high.

THE singer varied his tune, which is in the Dorian mode, in a very remarkable way, a good example of the skill with which folksingers will alter their tune to fit various metrical irregularities in the words (see English Folk - Song : Some Conclusions, p. 25). For versions with tunes, see the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume i., p. 214; volume ii., pp. 44, 95, 206, and 274); Songs of the West (No. 4, 2nd ed.); English Traditional Songs and Carols (p. 56); Christie's Traditional Ballad Airs ("Young Craigston "); and Johnson's Scots Musical Museum, volume iv. ("Lady Mary Ann"). For some reason or other, Child makes no mention of this ballad. For particulars of the custom of wearing ribands to denote betrothal or marriage, see "Ribands" in Hazlitt's Dictionary of Faiths and Folk-Lore.

#### No. 10. Lord Lovel.

I HAVE collected six versions, but only one complete set of words, the one given in the text (with the exception of the last two stanzas). Child (No. 75) deals with the ballad at some length, and quotes a tune of which that given in the text is a variant. See also the *fournal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume vi., p. 81); Bell's *Early Ballads* (p. 134); and Kinloch's *Ancient Scottish Ballads*.

## No. 11. False Lamkin.

UNDER the heading "Lamkin," Child (No. 93) deals very fully with this ballad. There is a tradition in Northumberland that Lamkin and his tower were of that county, and Miss Broadwood says that she has seen what is said to be the original tower close to the little village of Ovingham-on-Tyne, "now a mere shell overgrown with underwood."

For other versions with tunes, see Christie's *Traditional Ballad Airs of Scotland* and the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume i., p. 212; volume ii., p. 111; volume v., pp. 81-84). The ballad given here was collected in Cambridgeshire, in which county it is still very generally known to folk-singers.

## No. 12. Lord Thomas and Fair Ellinor.

THIS, of course, is a very common ballad. The words are on ballad-sheets and in most of the well-known collections, and are fully analysed in Child's *English and Scottish Ballads* (No. 73). For versions with tunes, see the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume ii., pp. 105-108); *English County*  Songs (p. 42); Sandys's Christmas Carols; Traditional Tunes (p. 40); Ritson's Scottish Songs (part iv., p. 228), etc.

The singer assured me that the three lines between the twentieth and twenty-first stanzas were always spoken and never sung. This is the only instance of the kind that I have come across (see *English Folk-Songs*: *Some Conclusions*, p. 6).

#### No. 13. The Death of Queen Jane.

For other versions see Child (No. 170) and the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume ii., p. 221; volume iii., p. 67; and volume v., p. 257).

Queen Jane Seymour gave birth to Prince Edward, afterwards Edward VI., on October 12, 1537, and died twelve days later. There is no evidence that her death was brought about in the way narrated in the ballad.

## No. 14. The Bold Fisherman.

For other versions with tunes, see the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume i., p. 138; volume v., pp. 132-135); and English County Songs (p. 110).

I have always felt that there was something mystical about this song, and I was accordingly much interested to find that the same idea had independently occurred to Miss Lucy Broadwood, who, in the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume v., pp. 132, 133), has developed her theory in a very interesting manner. She believes that the "Bold Fisherman," as it appears on broadsides, is but "a vulgar and secularized transmutation of a mediæval allegorical legend," and points out that the familiar elements of Gnostic and Early Christian mystical literature, for example, "the River, the Sea, the royal Fisher, the three Vestures of Light (or Robes of Glory), the Recognition and Adoration by the illuminated humble Soul, the free Pardon," etc., are all to be found among variants of this ballad. The early Fathers of the Christian Church wrote of their baptized members as "fish," emerged from the waters of baptism. For a

full exposition of this view, however, the reader is referred to the note above mentioned.

I have several variants, and I think in every case the tune is in 5-time. The words in the text have been compiled from the sets given me by various singers.

#### No. 15. The Bailiff's Daughter of Islington.

CHAPPELL (*Popular Music*, volume i., p. 203) gives one set of words and two tunes, the second of which is the well-known one. Copies of the text are also given in the Roxburghe, Pepys, and Douce Collections (see Child's *English and Scottish Ballads*, No. 105). For versions with tunes see the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume i., pp. 125 and 209). The version in the text was sung to me in Somerset. I have revised the words which the Somerset singer gave me, collating them with other copies.

#### No. 16. The Blind Beggar of Bethnal Green.

BISHOP PERCY (Reliques of Ancient English Poetry) maintains that this ballad was written in the reign of Elizabeth. Bell (Ballads and Songs of the Peasantry) prints a set from "a modern copy carefully collated with one in the Bagford Collection." Chappell (Popular Music, volume i., p. 158) gives two tunes; while another version with two tunes is quoted in the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume i., p. 203). The ballad in the text, which was sung to me in Somerset, represents a shortened form of the earlier texts above quoted, but the story as it stands is, nevertheless, quite complete. The tune, which is in the Dorian mode, is a variant of the Henry Martin air printed in this Collection (volume i., No. 1).

#### No. 17. A Brisk Young Sailor.

THIS is one of the most popular of English folk-songs. I have collected a large number of variants, from the several sets of which the words in the text have been compiled. For other versions see "There is an ale-house in yonder Town," in the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume i., p. 252; volume ii., pp. 155, 158, 159, and 168; volume iii., p. 188).

#### No. 18. The Crystal Spring.

I HAVE no variants of this song, nor have I been able to find it on ballad-sheets or in any published collection. I believe the tune to be a genuine folk-melody, though the sequence in the first phrase is unusual. On the other hand, the middle cadence on the third degree of the scale (thus avoiding a dominant modulation) is very characteristic of the folk-tune proper.

#### No. 19. It's a Rosebud in June.

THE Rev. John Broadwood noted a Sussex version of this song before 1840 (see Sussex Songs, No. 11). The words were also set to music by John Barrett, and were probably sung in "The Custom of the Manor" (1715). As the words of this version show traces of West Country dialect, and the tune, with its Dorian characteristics, is not altogether unlike that printed here, it is just possible that Barrett founded his tune upon the folk-air. The Sussex tune is quite different from our Dorian version, which was collected by me in Somerset. The words are printed exactly as they were sung to me.

#### No. 20. Sweet William.

OTHER versions are given in the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume i., p. 99); English County Songs (p. 74); and Christie's Traditional Ballad Airs (volume i., p. 248). The song is a very common one, and I have noted several variants of it.

#### No. 21. The Watchet Sailor.

I HAVE only one variant of this song, "Threepenny Street," and, so far as I know, it has not been published elsewhere. Compare the tune, which is in the Æolian mode, with that of "Henry Martin" in this collection (volume i., No. 1). For other versions, see Songs of the West (No. 48, 2d ed.); English County Songs p. 12); Traditional Tunes (pp. 42 and 172); Northumbrian Minstrelsy (p. 79); Folk-Songs from Somerset (No. 64); Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume i., p. 83; volume ii., p. 212; volume iii., p. 274), &c.

This is one of the ancient Riddle Songs, a good example of which occurs in the Wanderer scene in the first Act of Wagner's Siegfried. In its usual form, one person imposes a task upon his adversary, who, however, evades it by setting another task of equal difficulty, which, according to the rules of the game, must be performed first. In the version given here, the replies are omitted. For an exhaustive exposition of the subject, see Child's "Elfin Knight," and "Riddles wisely expounded," in his English and Scottish Popular Ballads (Nos. I and 2). See, also, Kinloch's Ancient Scottish Ballads (p. 145); Motherwell's Minstrelsy (Appendix, p. 1); Buchan's Ancient Ballads of the North of Scotland (volume ii., p. 296); Gesta Romanorum (pp. xl., 124, and 233, Bohn ed.); Gammer Gurton's Garland; and Halliwell's Nursery Rhymes. Mr. Baring-Gould's note to the song in Songs of the West should also be consulted.

The tune is in the Dorian mode, except for the final and very unusual cadence. The words have been supplemented from those of other traditional versions which I have collected.

#### No. 23. Brimbledon Fair, or Young Rambleaway.

MR. KIDSON prints a major version of this song in his *Traditional Tunes* (p. 150), under the heading "Brocklesby Fair." The words are on a broadside, "Young Ramble Away," by Jackson of Birmingham. The tune is in the Dorian mode.

#### No. 24. Bridgwater Fair.

ST. MATTHEW'S FAIR at Bridgwater is a very ancient one, and is still a local event of some importance, although it has seen its best days. The tune, which is partly Mixolydian, is a variant of "Gently, Johnny, my Jingalo" (volume i., No. 49), and also of "Bibberly Town" (Songs of the West, No. 110, 2nd ed.). I have only one other variant of this, from which, however, some of the lines in the text have been taken.

#### No. 25. The Brisk Young Bachelor.

THE troubles of married life, from either the husband's or the wife's point of view, form the subject of many folk-songs. One of the best and oldest examples is "A woman's work is never done," reproduced in Ashton's *Century of Ballads* (p. 20). I have collected several songs that harp on the same theme, two of which are printed respectively in the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume v., p. 65), and *Folk-Songs* from Various Counties (No. 10).

The tune, which is in the Dorian mode, is a fine example of the rollicking folk-air. As the singer's words were incomplete, I have supplemented them with lines from my other versions.

## No. 26. Ruggleton's Daughter of Iero.

THIS song, of which I have collected but one variant, is a version of a very ancient ballad, the history of which may be traced in Child's *English and Scottish Ballads* (No. 227), and in Miss Gilchrist's note to "The Wee Cooper of Fife," in the *Journal* of the Folk-Song Society (volume ii., pp. 223, 224). In some versions the husband is deterred from beating his wife through fear of her "gentle kin." To evade this difficulty he kills one of his own wethers, strips off its skin, and lays it on her back, saying :

> I dare na thump you, for your proud kin, But well sall I lay to my ain wether's skin.

(See "Sweet Robin," in Jamieson's *Popular Ballads*, volume i., p. 319).

This motive is absent from the present version, of which it may or may not once have formed part. For it is possible to argue that the "wether's skin" motive is an addition, which became attached to an older and simpler form of the ballad. The facts, as they stand, admit of either interpretation.

There is yet a third variation of the story in "Robin-a-thrush" (see English County Songs, The Besom Maker, English Folk-Songs for Schools, &c.), in which the story is still further curtailed by the omission of the wife-beating episode. In this latter form, it becomes a nursery nonsense-song, which relates in humorous fashion the ridiculous muddles made by a slovenly and incompetent wife. Its connection with "Ruggleton" or "Sweet Robin" is to be inferred from the title and refrain, "Robin-a-thrush," which, as Miss Gilchrist has pointed out, is probably a corruption of "Robin he thrashes her."

There is, too, another song which has some affinity with "Ruggleton." Here the husband married his wife on Monday; cut "a twig of holly so green" on Tuesday; "hung it out to dry" on Wednesday; on Thursday he "beat her all over the shoulders and head, till he had a-broke his holly green twig"; on Friday she "opened her mouth and began to roar"; and, finally:

> On Saturday morning I breakfast without A scolding wife or a brawling bout. Now I can enjoy my bottle and friend; I think I have made a rare week's end.

The same motive is to be found in "The Husband's Complaint," printed in Herd's *Manuscripts*, edited by Dr. Hans Hecht (p. 106).

The words given in the text are almost exactly as they were sung to me. I have, however, transposed the order of the words "brew" and "bake" in the fourth and fifth verses, in order to restore some semblance of a rhyme. There is a fragment, quoted by Jamieson, in which the verse in question is rendered : She wadna bake, she wadna brew (Hollin, green hollin), For spoiling o' her comely hue (Bend your bow, Robin).

There is, too, a version in *The Journal of American Folk-Lore* (volume vii., p. 253), quoted by Child, which is closely allied to the song in the text. In this variant, the following stanza occurs:

> Jenny couldn't wash and Jenny couldn't bake. Gently Jenny cried rosemaree, For fear of dirting her white apurn tape, As the dew flies over the mulberry tree.

For other American versions see English Folk-Songs from the Southern Appalachians.

#### No. 27. The Crabfish.

A SCOTTISH version of this curious song, "The Crab," is given in *A Ballad Book* by C. K. Sharpe and Edmund Goldsmid (volume ii., p. 10), published in 1824. The footnote states that the song is founded upon a story in *Le Moyen de Parvenir*. Some of the words have been altered.

The tune is in the Mixolydian mode, and was sung to me very excitedly and at breakneck speed, the singer punctuating the rhythm of the refrain with blows of her fist upon the table at which she was sitting.

## No. 28. The Beggar.

THE words of the refrain of this song are very nearly identical with the chorus of "I cannot eat but little meat," the wellknown drinking-song in Gammer Gurton's *Needle*. This play was printed in 1575, and. until the discovery of Royster Doyster, was considered to be the earliest English comedy. Its author was John Still, afterwards (1592) Bishop of Bath and Wells. The song, however, was not written by him, for Chappell points out that "the Rev. Alex. Dyce has given a copy of double length from a manuscript in his possession, and certainly of an earlier date than the play.' Chappell furthermore calls attention to the custom of singing old songs or playing old tunes at the commencement, and at the end, of the Acts of early dramas. "I cannot eat" has been called "the first drinking-song of any merit in our language."

The words of this Exmoor song, excluding the chorus, are quite different from the version in Gammer Gurton's Needle. It appears that under the title of "The Beggar and the Queen," they were published in the form of a song not more than a century ago (see A Collection of English Ballads from beginning of Eighteenth Century, volume vii., Brit. Mus.). The tune, which is quite different from the one given here, is clearly the invention of a contemporary composer, but there is no evidence to show whether or not the words were the production of a contemporary writer; they may have been traditional verses which happened to attract the attention of some musician. There is a certain air of reckless abandonment about them which seems to suggest a folk-origin, and they are, at any rate, far less obviously the work of a literary man than are the verses-apart from the refrain-of "I cannot eat."

In *The Songster's Museum* (Gosport) there is a parody of the above song (chorus omitted), which, in the *Bagford Ballads* (volume i., p. 214), is attributed to Tom Dibdin.

A tune to "I cannot eat" is given in Ritson, and in *Popular Music of the Olden Time* (p. 72), and is a version of "John Dory." The tune in the text has no relation whatever to that well-known air, nor to any other tune that I know of. In my opinion, it may well be a genuine folk-air.

The singer gave me two verses only, the second and third in the text. The other two are from a version which the Rev. S. Baring-Gould collected in Devon, and which he has courteously allowed me to use. Mr. H. E. D. Hammond has recovered similar words in Dorset, but, like Mr. Baring-Gould, he found them mated to quite a modern and "composed" air.

#### No. 29. The Keeper.

THIS is one of the few two-men folk-songs. I have several variants of it, but the words of all of them, except this particular one, were so corrupt as to be unintelligible. The words are printed in an old garland, from which the last stanza in the text has been derived. The rest of the words are given as they were sung to me.

#### No. 30. The Duke of Marlborough.

For other versions with tunes see Barrett's *English Folk-Songs* and the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume i., p. 156; volume iii., p. 200; and volume v., p. 265).

#### No. 31. Jack Hall.

JACK HALL, who had been sold to a chimneysweep for a guinea, was executed for burglary at Tyburn in 1701. The song must have been written before 1719, for in *Pills to Purge Melancholy* (volume ii., p. 182), there is a song, "The Moderator's Dream," "the words made to a pretty tune, call'd Chimney Sweep," which is in identically the same metre as that of "Jack Hall." A vulgarized edition of the song was made very popular in the middle years of the last century by a comic singer, G. W. Ross.

I have taken down four versions, the tunes of which, with the exception of that given in the text, are all variants of the "Admiral Benbow" air (see No. 37). The metre in which each of these two ballads is cast is so unusual that we may assume that one was written in imitation of the other. As Jack Hall was executed in 1701 and Admiral Benbow was killed in 1702, "Jack Hall" is presumably the earlier of the two.

The singer could recall the words of one verse only. The remaining stanzas have been taken from my other versions. The tune is in the Æolian mode. No. 32. Dashing away with the Smoothing Iron.

I HAVE noted two other versions of this song. The tune is a variant of "All round my hat," a popular song of the early years of the last century. Chappell, in his *Ancient English Melodies* (No. 126), prints a version of the air and dubs it "a Somersetshire tune, the original of 'All round my hat.'" I believe it to be a genuine folk-air, which, as in other cases, formed the basis of a street-song.

#### No. 33. The Robber.

THE words to which this remarkably fine Dorian air was sung were about a highwayman and his sweetheart, but were too fragmentary for publication. I have wedded the tune to a different, but similar, set of words which another singer sang to a very poor tune.

#### No. 34. John Barleycorn.

For other versions with tunes of this wellknown ballad, see *Songs of the West* (No. 14 and Note, 2nd ed.); Barrett's *English Folk-Songs* (No. 8); *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume i., p. 81; volume iii., p. 255); and Christie's *Traditional Ballad Airs of Scotland* (volume i., p. 134).

The earliest printed copy of the ballad is of the time of James I.

Versions with words only are given in Dick's Songs of Robert Burns (p. 314); Roxburghe Ballads (volume ii., p. 327); and Bell's Ballads and Songs of the Peasantry of England (p. 80). Chappell gives "Stingo or Oil of Barley" as the traditional air; while Dick says it is uncertain whether Burns intended his version of the ballad to be sung to that tune or to "Lull me beyond thee" (Playford's English Dancing Master, 1st ed.).

It is not easy to express in musical notation the exact way in which the singer sang this song. He dwelt, perhaps, rather longer upon the double-dotted notes than their written value, although not long enough to warrant their being marked with the formal pause. The singer told me that he heard the song solemnly chanted by some street-singers who passed through his village when he was a The song fascinated him, and he child. followed the singers and tried to learn the air. For some time afterward he was unable to recall it, when one day, to his great delight, the tune suddenly came back to him, and since then he has constantly sung it. He gave me the words of the first stanza only. The remaining verses of the text have been taken from Bell's Songs of the Peasantry of England. The tune, which is in the Æolian mode, is such a fine one that I have been tempted to harmonize it somewhat elabo-Those who prefer a simpler setting rately. can repeat the harmonies set to the first verse.

#### No. 35. Poor Old Horse.

For other versions with tunes, see the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume i., pp. 75 and 260; volume ii., p. 263); Miss Mason's Nursery Rhymes and Country Songs (p. 49); Songs of the West (No. 77, 2nd ed.); Folk-Songs from Somerset (volume i., No. 27); and Songs of Northern England (p. 60).

The song was evidently one that was sung during the ceremony of the hobby horse, for example, the Hooden Horse in Kent (see *The Hooden Horse*, by Percy Maylam). A kindred ceremony, also associated with a song, "The Dead Horse," is still celebrated by sailors after they have been a month at sea (*English Folk Chanteys*, p. 73).

#### No. 36. Botany Bay.

I DO NOT know of any published versions of this song. I made use of the tune in Mr. Granville Barker's production of Hardy's *Dynasts*, setting the words of the "Trafalgar" song to it.

#### No. 37. Admiral Benbow.

CHAPPELL (*Popular Music of the Olden Time*, volume ii., pp. 642 and 678) gives two versions of this ballad. The first of these is entirely different from that given in the text; but the words of the second version, which are taken from Halliwell's *Early Naval Ballads of England*, are substantially the same, though set to a different air. The air "Marrinys yn Tiger," in Mr. Gill's *Manx National Songs* (p. 4) is a variant of our tune. Messrs. Kidson and Moffat publish a variant of the first of Chappell's versions in *Minstrelsy of England* (p. 25) with an instructive note. See also Ashton's *Real Sailor Songs* (p. 19).

John Benbow (1653-1702) was the son of a tanner at Shrewsbury. He was apprenticed to a butcher, from whose shop he ran away to sea. He entered the Navy and rose rapidly to high command. The ballad is concerned with his engagement with the French fleet, under Du Casse, off the West Indies, August 19-24, 1702. The English force consisted of seven ships, of from fifty to seventy guns. Benbow's ship was the Breda. Captain Walton of the Ruby was the only one of his captains to stand by him; the rest shirked. The Ruby was disabled on August 23, and left for Port Royal. Shortly afterwards Benbow's right leg was shattered by a chain shot. After his wound was dressed, he insisted on being carried up to the quarter-deck, as narrated On the following day his in the ballad. captains, headed by Captain Kirkby, of the Defiance, came on board and urged him to discontinue the chase. This they compelled him to do, and he returned to Jamaica, where he at once ordered a court-martial. Captains Kirkby and Wade were sentenced to be shot; Vincent and Fogg were suspended; while Captain Hudson of the Pendennis died before Kirkby and Wade were executed the trial. on board the Bristol, in Plymouth Sound, on April 16, 1703. Admiral Benbow succumbed to his wounds, November 4, 1702, at Port Royal, and was buried at Kingston. His portrait is, or was, in the Painted Hall, Greenwich, to which it was presented by George IV. Mr. Ashton states that there is a tradition "that his body was brought England and buried in Deptford to Church "

It is a little difficult to account for the popularity Benbow excited. Personally brave he certainly was; but he has been described as "an honest rough seaman," who, it is alleged, treated his inferiors with scant courtesy. Their failure to stand by him in the French fight was, of course, a disgraceful act of cowardice; but it may also be attributed, to some extent, to their want of personal regard for their chief.

#### No. 38. Bold Nelson's Praise.

This is the only version of this song that I know. The singer mixed his words in all the verses except the first one, necessitating a certain amount of re-arrangement. The air is in the Dorian mode, and is a variant of "Princess Royal," a well-known Morris-Jig tune. Shield adapted the air to the words of "The Saucy Arethusa," one of the songs in the ballad-opera *The Lock and Key* (1796). The composition of the air has sometimes been attributed to Carolan. The tune is also printed in Walsh's *Compleat Dancing Master (circa* 1730), under the title "The Princess Royal: the new way."

#### No. 39. Spanish Ladies.

THIS is a Capstan Chantey. It is also well known in the Navy, where it is sung as a song, chanteys not being permitted. Captain Kettlewell, R.N., who has made a special study of this song and has very kindly revised the words for me, tells me that when it is sung on board ship, the conclusion of the chorus is, or always used to be, greeted with a shout of "Heave and pawl!" (the pawl is the catch which prevents the recoil of the windlass).

The tune is in the Æolian mode Nowadays, alas! sailors sing a modernized and far less beautiful form of the air in the major mode.

#### No. 40. The Ship in Distress.

For other versions with tunes, see the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume iv,

pp. 320-323). Ashton, in his *Real Sailor* Songs (No. 44), prints a broadside version of the words. A similar song is sung by French sailors, "Le petit Navire" (Miss Laura A. Smith's *Music of the Waters*, p. 149), of which Thackeray's "Little Billee" was a burlesque.

The tune is in the Dorian mode.

#### No. 41. Come all you worthy Christian Men.

SEVERAL versions of this moralizing ballad with tunes are printed in the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume i., p. 74; volume ii., pp. 115-122). The tune is one of the most common, the most characteristic, and, I would add, the most beautiful of English folk-airs. The version here given is in the Æolian mode, but it is often sung in the major, Dorian, and Mixolydian modes. For other versions of the tune set to different words, see English County Songs (pp. 34, 68, and 102); and Songs of the West (No. 111, 2nd ed.). The well-known air "The Miller and the Dee" is a minor and "edited" version of the same tune. Chappell, too, noted down a version of it which he heard sung in the streets of Kilburn in the early years of the last century (Popular Music p. 748). For an exhaustive note by Miss Broadwood upon the tune and its origin, see the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume ii., p. 119).

#### No. 42. Wassail Song.

THE old custom of wassail singing still survives in many parts of England, though it is fast dying out. The ceremony is performed on January 5, *i.e.*, the eve of Epiphany. It is of Saxon origin, the word "wassail" (accent on the last syllable) meaning "be of good health," from A.-S. wes = be, and  $h\bar{a}l =$  whole or hale. The cup "made of the good old ashen tree" takes us back to the period when all common domestic vessels were of wood. In early times there was an ecclesiastical edict against the use of wooden vessels for the Holy Communion. Sir James Ramsay, in his Foundations of England (volume ii.), quotes an old Saxon "toasting-cry" from Wace, the Anglo-Norman poet (d. 1180). The Chronicler says that the following lines were sung in the English camp on the eve of the battle of Hastings:

> Bublie crient é weissel, E laticome é drencheheil Drinc Hindrewart é Drintome Drinc Helf, é drinc tome.

This, according to Sir James Ramsay, may be translated thus:

Rejoice and wassail Let it come (pass the bottle) and drink health Drink backwards and drink to me Drink half and drink empty.

For other versions, see "Somersetshire Wassail" (A Garland of Country Song, No. 20); Sussex Songs (No. 3); and The Besom Maker (p. 9). For a Gloucestershire version, see English Folk Carols (No. 21).

The strong tune in the text is in the Dorian mode.

#### No. 43. The Keys of Canterbury.

For other versions with tunes, see the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume ii., p. 85); English County Songs (p. 32); Songs of the West (No. 22, 2nd ed.); and Mason's Nursery Rhymes and Country Songs (p. 67). Halliwell (Nursery Rhymes and Tales, p. 96) quotes a version of the words. The same theme is dramatised in the Singing Game, "There stands a Lady" (Children's Singing Games, Set 3, Novello & Co.).

The tune, which is in the Æolian mode, is remarkable in that it is practically constructed upon the first five notes of the scale—the sixth is but once used, and then only as an auxiliary note.

#### No. 44. My Man John.

THIS is obviously but an extension of the preceding song in which a third character is introduced. I have taken down four other versions, one of which is printed in the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume ii., p. 88). Mr. Baring-Gould gives the words

of yet another variant in his note to "Blue Muslin" (Songs of the West, p. 8, 2nd ed.), where he also points out that muslin was introduced into England in 1670, and that mous-e-line is the old form of the word.

#### No. 45. O No, John!

I HAVE collected several versions of this song. The first stanza is identical with the initial verse of the Singing Game, "Lady on the Mountain" (Dictionary of British Folk-Lore, volume i., pp. 320-324). Lady Gomme shrewdly guessed that the game was derived from a ballad, and Mr. Newell, in his Games and Songs of American Children (p. 55), prints a version which he also believes to be "an old English song, which has been taken for a ring-game." See also "The Disdainful Lady," in Miss Burne's Shropshire Folk-Lore (p. 561); and "Twenty, Eighteen," in English County Songs (p. 90).

The main theme of the song-the daughter's promise to her father to answer "No" to all her suitors during his absence ---is not in any of the songs above mentioned. The idea, however, is carried out in "No, Sir!" which the late Miss A. M. Wakefield made very popular some years ago. Miss Wakefield wrote to me: "I first heard something like it from an American governess. Neither words nor music were at all complete . . . I wrote it down and it got a good deal altered and I never looked upon it at all as a folk-song," and added that her song was now sung by the Salvation Army, under the title "Yes, Lord!" The song is, of course, closely allied to the two preceding songs. The tune is a variant of the "Billy Taylor" tune (see volume i., No. 50). The Shropshire version and the one in English County Songs are Dorian and Æolian (?) variants of the same air. The first two stanzas of the text are exactly as they were sung to me; the rest of the lines were coarse and needed considerable revision.

#### No. 46. The Twelve Days of Christmas.

THIS song consists of twenty-three verses, and is sung in the following way. The second verse begins:

> On the eleventh day of Christmas my true Love sent to me Eleven bulls a-beating, etc.

and so on till the twelfth verse, as given in the text. The process is then reversed, the verses being gradually increased in length, so that the thirteenth verse is :

> On the second day of Christmas my true Love sent to me Two turtle doves One goldie ring, And the part of a June apple-tree.

In this way the twenty-third verse is triumphantly reached, and that, except for the last line, is the same as the first verse.

Another way to sing the song is to begin with "On the first day of Christmas," etc., and to continue to the "twelfth day," when the song concludes.

"June Apple-Tree" may or may not be a corruption of "Juniper-Tree"; the singer explained that it meant a tree whose fruit kept sound and good till the following June.

For the third gift, the singer sang "Three Britten Chains," which she said were "seabirds with golden chains round their necks." All the other singers I have heard sang "Three French Hens," and, as this is the usual reading in printed copies, I have so given it in the text. "Britten Chains" may be a corruption of "Bréton hens."

The "twelve days" are, of course, those between Christmas Day and Epiphany, or Twelfth Day.

For other versions, see Mr. Baring-Gould's note to "The jolly Goss-hawk (Songs of the West, No. 71); Chambers's Popular Songs of Scotland (p. 42); Halliwell's Nursery Rhymes (pp. 63 and 73); English Folk-Songs from the Southern Appalachians; and Northumbrian Minstrelsy (p. 129), where the song is described as "one of the quaintest of Christmas carols now relegated to the nursery as a forfeit game, where each child in succession has to repeat the gifts of the day and incurs a forfeit for every error." In this last version (also given in Halliwell's *Nursery Rhymes*, p. 73, and Husk's *Songs of the Nativity*), the first gift is "a partridge on a pear tree," and this I have heard several times in country villages. One singer who gave it to me volunteered the statement that it was only another way of singing " part of a Juniper-tree," of which, of course, it may be a corruption.

These words are also used as a Children's Game. One of Halliwell's versions (p. 63) is still used by children in Somerset, and Lady Gomme (Dictionary of British Folk-Lore, volume i., p. 315), besides reprinting three of the forms given above, gives a London variant. In a note to the game, Lady Gomme points out that the festival of the twelve days, the great midwinter feast of Yule, was a very important one, and that in this game may, perhaps, be discerned the relic of certain customs and ceremonies and the penalties or forfeits incurred by those who omitted religiously to carry them out; and she adds that it was a very general practice for work of all kinds to be put entirely aside before Christmas and not resumed until after Twelfth Day.

Country singers are very fond of accumulative songs of this type, regarding them as tests of endurance and memory, and sometimes of sobriety!

#### No. 47. The Ten Commandments.

THIS song is very common in Somerset and over the whole of the West of England. The Rev. S. Baring-Gould has published a version in Songs of the West, and there are two versions in English County Songs. Both of these publications contain notes respecting the origin, distribution, and meaning of this curious song. The song is well known in America (see English Folk-Songs from the Southern Appalachians). It will be seen that the words of many of the verses are corrupt; so corrupt, indeed, that in some cases we can do little more than guess at their original meaning. The variants that I have recovered in Somerset are as follows:

(1) All versions agree in this line, which obviously refers to God Almighty.

(2) "Two of these are lizzie both, clothed all in green, O!" Mr. Baring-Gould suggests that the "lily-white babes" are probably the Gemini, or signs for Spring.

(3) "Thrivers," "Tires," or "Trivers." It has been suggested that these may be corruptions of "Wisers," as one printed version gives it, and may refer to the Wise Men from the East.

(4) Always "Gospel Preachers" or "Makers."

(5) "The boys upon the pole," "The thimble over the ball," "The plum boys at the bowl," or "in the brow."

(6) "Broad Waiters," "Charming Waiters," "Go Waiters," "The Minger Waiters." The editors of *English County Songs* suggest that these may refer to the six water-pots used in the miracle of Cana of Galilee.

(7) Always "Seven stars in the sky"— presumably the constellation of Ursa Major.

(8) "The Gibley Angels," "The Angel Givers," "The Gabriel Angels."

(9) No Somerset variants. Mr. Baring-Gould records a Devon variant, "The Nine Delights," that is, the joys of Mary.

(10) No variants.

(11) "Eleven and eleven is gone to heaven," that is, the Twelve Apostles without Judas Iscariot.

(12) No variants.

In *Notes and Queries* for December 26, 1868, there is a version of the words of this song as "sung by the children at Beckington, Somerset." It begins as follows :

Sing, sing, what shall we sing? Sing all over one. One! What is one? One they do call the righteous Man. Save poor souls to rest, Amen.

#### These are the remaining verses :

Two is the Jewry. Three is the Trinity. Four is the open door. Five is the man alive. Six is the crucifix. Seven is the bread of leaven. Eight is the crooked straight. Nine is the water wine. Ten is our Lady's hen. Eleven is the gate of heaven. Twelve is the ring of bells.

A Hebrew version of the words of "The Ten Commandments" is to be found in the service for the Passover (see Service for the First Nights of Passover according to the custom of the German and Polish Jews, by the Rev. A. P. Mendes). The service for the second night of the Passover concludes with two recitations, both of which are accumulative songs. The second of these, "One only kid," has nothing to do with "The Ten Commandments," but, as it is analogous to the old nursery song, "The Old Woman and her Pig," it is perhaps worth while to quote the last verse :

Then came the Most Holy, blessed be He, and siew the slaughterer, who had slaughtered the ox, which had drunk the water, which had burnt the staff, which had smitten the dog, which had bitten the cat, which had devoured the kid, which my father bought for two zuzim; one only kid, one only kid.

This, of course, is explained esoterically. The "cat," for instance, refers to Babylon; the "dog" to Persia; the "staff" to Greece, and so on.

The other accumulative song, which precedes "One only kid," is a Hebrew rendering of "The Ten Commandments" of Western England. It contains thirteen verses :

- Who knoweth one? I, saith Israel, know one: One is God, who is over heaven and earth.
- Who knoweth two? I, saith Israel, know two: there are two tables of the covenant; but One is our God, who is over heaven and earth.
- Who knoweth three? I, saith Israel, know three: there are three patriarchs, the two tables of the covenant; but One is our God, who is over heaven and earth. Etc., etc., etc.
- Who knoweth thirteen? I, saith Israel, know thirteen: Thirteen divine attributes, twelve tribes, cleven stars, ten commandments, nine months preceding child-birth, eight days preceding circumcision, seven days in the week, six books of the Mishnah, five books of the Law, four matrons, three patriarchs, two tables of the covenant; but One is our God, who is over the heavens and the carth.

Whether "Only one kid" and "Who One?" knoweth originated with the common people and were afterward taken into the Passover service, or vice versa, is a matter of some doubt. Simrock (Die deutschen Volkslieder, p. 520) says that "Who knoweth One?" was originally a German peasants' drinking-song; that it was changed by the monks into an ecclesiastical song, very similar to the form in which we know it; and that afterward, probably during the latter half of the 16th century, it suffered a further adaptation and found a place in the Passover service of the German Jews. "Ehad Mi Yodea"-to give it its Hebrew title-has, however, since been found in the Avignon ritual as a festal table-song for holy-days in general, so that its inclusion in the Jewish Passover service may have been earlier than Simrock surmised. It appears that to the early manuscript Jewish prayer-books it was customary to append popular stories and ballads. That may have been the case with the two songs in question, in which event it is easy to see how they may have gradually been absorbed into, and have become an integral part of, the service itself.

The Rev. A. A. Green, in *The Revised Hagada*, expresses the opinion that both of these accumulative songs are essentially Hebrew nursery-rhymes, and he regrets "that they have ever been regarded as anything else." He quotes the first verse of the Scottish "Song of Numbers":

> We will all gae sing, boys. Where will we begin, boys? We'll begin the way we should, And we'll begin at ane, boys.

The literature on the subject is a very large one. Those who are interested in the matter should consult the articles "Ehad Mi Yodea" and "Had Gadya" in the *Jewish Encyclopædia* (volumes v. and vi.), where many authorities are quoted.

It will be noticed that all the Christian forms of the song stop at the number twelve. It has been suggested that the Hebrew version was purposely extended to thirteen, the unlucky number, in order that the Jew might be able to feel that with him thirteen was a holy and, therefore, lucky number.

Like many accumulative songs, "The Ten Commandments" is a most interesting one to listen to. The best folk-singers combine their musical phrases in a different manner in each verse, and in so doing display no little ingenuity. Their aim, no doubt, is to compound the phrases so as to avoid the too frequent recurrence of the full-close. I should have liked to show exactly how the singer sang each verse of the song, but this would have entailed printing every one of the twelve verses, and consideration of space forbade this. I have, however, given the last verse in full, and this, I hope, will be some guide to the singer.

A form of this song, "Green grow the rushes, O," is known at Eton, and is printed in *English County Songs* (p. 158); and Sullivan introduced a version into *The Yeomen of the Guard*.

#### No. 48. The Tree in the Wood.

MISS MASON prints an interesting Devon variant in Nursery Rhymes and Country Songs (p. 26), and there is another version from the same county in the Rev. S. Baring-Gould's Songs of the West (No. 104, 1st ed.). In his note to the latter, Mr. Baring-Gould says that under the name of "Ar parc caer" the song is well known in Brittany (see Luzel's Chansons Populaires de la Basse Bretagne). There are also French ("Le Bois Joli") and Danish forms of the song. See, also, the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume iii., p. 277); Journal of the Welsh Folk-Song Society (volume i., p. 40); and Folk-Songs from Somerset (No. 93).

The version given here has not been previously published. The tune, which is in the Æolian mode, is a variant of "Come all you worthy Christian men" (No. 91).

This is one of the easiest of all accumulative songs, both to learn and to sing, and it may, of course, be lengthened indefinitely, according to the taste and inventive powers of the singer.

#### No. 49. The Barley-Mow.

I HAVE a large number of variants of this song, which used to be in great request at Harvest Homes.

Chappell, without giving its origin, prints a traditional version in his *Popular Music* (p. 745), and connects it with one of the Freemen's Songs in *Deuteromelia*. In Bell's *Songs of the Peasantry of England*, two versions of the words are given, one from the West Country, and a Suffolk variant. In a note to the former, it is stated that the song was usually sung at country meetings immediately after the ceremony of "crying the neck," an ancient pagan rite, traces of which still survive in Somerset.

A good singer, proud of his memory, will often lengthen the song to abnormal proportions by halving the drink-measures, half-pint, half-quart, half-gallon, and so on.

#### No. 50. One man shall mow my meadow.

ALTHOUGH this is a very popular song and very widely known, and I have recently heard soldiers singing it on the march on more than one occasion, I am unable to give a reference to any published version of it.

# ENGLISH FOLK SONGS

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I LORD RENDAL.



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4.

What was the colour on their skin, Rendal, my son? What was the colour on their skin, my pretty one? O spickit and sparkit, mother, make my bed soon, For I'm sick to my heart and I fain would lie down.

#### **5**.

What will you leave your father, Rendal, my son? What will you leave your father, my pretty one? My land and houses, mother, make my bed soon, For I'm sick to my heart and I fain would lie down. 6.

3

What will you leave your mother, Rendal, my son? What will you leave your mother, my pretty one? My gold and silver, mother, make my bed soon, For I'm sick to my heart and I fain would lie down.

#### 7.

What will you leave your brother, Rendal, my son? What will you leave your brother, my pretty one? My cows and horses, mother, make my bed soon, For I'm sick to my heart and I fain would lie down.

8.

What will you leave your lover, Rendal, my son? What will you leave your lover, my pretty one? A rope to hang her, mother, make my bed soon, For I'm sick to my heart and I fain would lie down. II THE BRIERY BUSH.





The above verses are repeated ad libitum, with the substitution of other relatives, e.g. "mother," "brother," "sister," etc. for "father." The arrival of the "true-love" brings the song to a close as follows: -

O hangman, stay thy hand, And stay it for a while For I fancy I see my true-love a-coming Across the yonder stile.

O true-love, have you my gold? And can you set me free? Or are you come to see me hung All on the gallows tree? O yes, I've brought thee gold, And I can set thee free; And I've not come to see thee hung All on the gallows tree.

O the briery bush, That pricks my heart so sore; Now I've got out of the briery bush, I'll never get in any more. III BLOW AWAY THE MORNING DEW.







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6.

As they were riding on alone, They saw some pooks of hay. O is not this a very pretty place For girls and boys to play?

Chorus And sing blow away the morning dew, The dew and the dew. Blow away the morning dew, How sweet the winds do blow.

7. But when they came to her father's gate, So nimble she popped in: And said: There is a fool without And here's a maid within. Chorus. And sing blow away etc. 8.

We have a flower in our garden, We call it Marigold: And if you will not when you may, You shall not when you wolde. Chorus. And sing blow away etc. IV THE TWO MAGICIANS.





V THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.





#### FAIR MARGARET AND SWEET WILLIAM.

LADY Margaret was sitting in her bower one day A-combing out her hair, And who did she spy but Sweet William and his bride As they came a-riding by. Then down she threw her ivory comb And back she threw her hair, And out of her bower she withdrew herself, And was never any more seen there. The day passed away and the night coming on, And most all the men were asleep. Sweet William espied Lady Margaret's ghost A-standing at his bed-feet. O how do you like your bed? she says, Or how do you like your sheet? Or how do you like your new wedded wife That lies in your arms and sleeps? Very well, very well I like my bed, Very well I like my sheet; But ten thousand times better do I like the lady gay That stands at my bed-feet. The night passed away and the day coming on, And most all the men were awake. Sweet William said I am troubled in my head By the dreams that I dreamed last night. He call-ed down his waiting-men By one, by two, by three, Saying: Go and ask leave of my new wedded bride If Lady Margaret I may go and see. He rode till he came to Lady Margaret's door; He tingled at the ring; And who was so ready as her own mother dear For to rise and let him in. O where is Lady Margaret? Is she in her bower-room? Or is she in the hall? No, no, she is in her bedchamber With her pale face turned to the wall. O down he pull-ed the milk-white sheets, Were made of satin so fine. Ten thousand times she has kissed my lips, And now, love, I'll kiss thine. Three times he kissed her cherry, cherry cheeks, Three times he kissed her chin, And when he kissed her clay-cold lips His heart it broke within. O what have you prepared for Lady Margaret's burying? Sweet biscuits and white wine. I'll have you prepare the same for me Betwixt eight o'clock and nine. They buried Lady Margaret in the old churchyard, They buried Sweet William close by. Out of Lady Margaret's grave sprung a deep-red rose And out of his a brier. They grew to the top of the old church-house; They could not grow any higher; They met and they tied in a true lover's knot And the rose hung on the brier.
VI

## FAIR MARGARET AND SWEET WILLIAM.











## THE LOW, LOW LANDS OF HOLLAND.

VII THE LOW, LOW LANDS OF HOLLAND.



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# THE UNQUIET GRAVE

or

COLD BLOWS THE WIND.



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IX THE TREES THEY DO GROW HIGH.





X LORD LOVEL.



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where are you go - ing, Lord Lov - el? she said, 0 where are you go - ing? cried day, Strange had not been gone but a year and a coun tries for\_\_\_\_ to Lord Lov - el dead? he cried, Ah! dead? who \_\_\_\_ is who \_\_\_\_ is cried might be to - day, she died as it Lord Lov \_ el Nan - cy he died as to turn'd\_\_\_\_ and twined Till they they grew\_ and gain'd\_ the there \_\_\_\_ chan cel ľm go - ing, my La - dy Nan - cy Belle, Strange coun - tries for \_\_\_\_\_ to she: see, \_\_\_\_ When a strange thought came in - to his head, He'd go and see La-dy Nanold wo-man said: Some la-dy is dead, They call-ed her La-dy Nanhe. \_ An \_\_\_\_ La-dy Nan-cy she diedout of pure, pure grief, Lord Lov-el he died out of - mor-row; And there they grew and turn'd and twined And tied in a true lov-er's top,\_ Four times D.S. Last time  $\widehat{\phantom{a}}$ see, see, Strange coun - tries for \_\_\_\_ to see, see. 3. How He'd go and see La-dy Nan - cy. - cy, -cy, -cy,5. He They call-ed her La-dy Nan - cy. 7. He -cy, -cy, -cy, sor - row, -row, Lord Lov-el he died out of sor-row. 9. The knot, knot, knot, And tied in a true lov-er's knot. D.S



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XII

LORD THOMAS AND FAIR ELLINOR.



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#### 13.

Is this your bride, Lord Thomas? she said, Methinks she looks wonderfully brown; When you could have had the fairest lady That ever trod English ground.

#### **14**.

Despise her not, Lord Thomas then said, Despise her not unto me; For more do I love thy little finger Than all her whole body.

#### 15.

The brown girl had a little penknife, Which was both long and sharp; 'Twixt the small ribs and the short she pricked Fair Ellinor to the heart. 16.

Oh! what is the matter, Fair Ellen? he said, Methinks you look wondrous wan; You used to have as fair a colour As ever the sun shone on.

#### 17.

Oh! are you blind, Lord Thomas? she said, Oh! can you not very well see? Oh! can you not see my own heart's blood Come trinkling down my knee?

#### **18**.

Lord Thomas he had a sword by his side, As he walked through the hall; He took off the brown girl's head from her shoulders And flung it against the wall.

19.

He put the handle to the ground, The sword unto his heart. No sooner did three lovers meet, No sooner did they part.

Make me a grave both long and wide, Spoken And lay fair Ellinor by my side And the brown girl at my feet.

#### **20**.

Lord Thomas was buried in the church, Fair Ellinor in the choir; And from her bosom there grew a red rose, And out of Lord Thomas the briar. **21**.

They grew till they reached the church tip-top, When they could grow no higher; And then they entwined like a true lover's knot, For all true lovers to admire.

## XIII THE DEATH OF QUEEN JANE.



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XIV

## THE BOLD FISHERMAN.



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#### THE BAILIFF'S DAUGHTER OF ISLINGTON.

It 's of a youth, a kind young youth, He was a squire's son; He courted the bailiff's daughter, She lived at Islington.

Now when his parents came to know They had such a silly son, They sent him away to fair London Town And a prentice had him bound.

One day all in the summer-time, The girls went out to play, All but the bailiff's daughter, So cunningly she stole away.

And she pulled off her gown of green And dressed in ragged attire, And went away to fair London Town Her true love to enquire

She travelled on one livelong year, One livelong year and a day, And whom did she meet but her own true love A-riding that way.

Then she took hold of the horse's head, Likewise the bridle and rein. One penny, one penny, kind sir, she said, Will ease me of my pain.

If I give thee but one penny, Pray tell me where you were born. In Islington, kind sir, she said, Where there 's many that do me scorn.

And if you live at Islington Surely you must know What 's become of the bailiff's daughter She 's dead, sir, long ago.

If she be dead, here take my horse, My fiddle and my bow, And I will go to some far country Where no man shall me know.

O stay, kind sir, she is not dead, She is yet a live; She 's standing by her true love's side Just ready for to be his bride.

O farewell grief and sorrow too, Ten thousand joys or more, For now I have got my heart's delight, The girl that I adore.

(34)

### XV THE BAILIFF'S DAUGHTER OF ISLINGTON.















XVI THE BLIND BEGGAR OF BETHNAL GREEN.











#### THE BLIND BEGGAR OF BETHNAL GREEN.

It 's of a blind beggar who'd lost his sight, He had but one daughter, most beautiful, bright. I'll go seek my fortune, dear father, said she; And the favour was granted to charming Betsy.

She set out from London, as I've heard them say, She arriv-ed in Romford the very same day; And when she came there well hired was she, So deeply beloved was charming Betsy.

She had not been there a very long time Before a rich lord a-courting her came. Your form shall be loaded with jewels, said he, If you can but love me, my charming Betsy.

O yes, I am willing to do it, said she, But first ask the father of charming Betsy. O who is your father? Pray tell unto me, That I may go with you your father to see.

My father is every day to be seen ; He's called the Blind Beggar of Bethnal Green, He's called the Blind Beggar, God knows it! said she, But he's been a good father to charming Betsy.

They set out from Romford, as I've heard them say, And arriv-ed in London the very same day; And when they came there her father to see, He glad was to hear of his daughter Betsy.

My daughter 's not cloth-ed as well as she shall, But I will drop guineas with you for my girl. They drop-ped their guineas down on to the ground, They dropped till it came to ten thousand pound.

O dear honoured father, I've dropped all my store, I've dropped all my riches, I cannot drop more; But grant me your daughter and that's all I crave, That I may be married to charming Betsy.

Then take her and make her your jewel so bright, There are many rich lords this wedding will spite; And when you are married and all things are done, There's a hundred bright guineas to buy her a gown.

Then Billy and Betsy they went hand in hand, And Billy and Betsy were made both as one. The most beautiful creature that ever was seen Was the Blind Beggar's daughter of Bethnal Green. XVII A BRISK YOUNG SAILOR.



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XVIII THE CRYSTAL SPRING.



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XIX IT'S A ROSEBUD IN JUNE.







XX SWEET WILLIAM.



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XXI THE WATCHET SAILOR.



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XXII SCARBOROUGH FAIR.



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# BRIMBLEDON FAIR

OR, YOUNG RAMBLE-AWAY.

## XXIII BRIMBLEDON FAIR

OR, YOUNG RAMBLE-AWAY.



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XXIV BRIDGWATER FAIR.



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XXV THE BRISK YOUNG BACHELOR.





# XXVI RUGGLETON'S DAUGHTER OF IERO.







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#### XXVII

### THE CRABFISH.







### XXVIII THE BEGGAR.





#### XXIX THE KEEPER.



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#### THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.

You generals and champions bold Who take delight in the field, Who knock down palaces and castle walls And fight until they yield. O I must go and face the foe Without my sword and shield. I always fought with merry men, But now to Death I must yield.

I am an Englishman by my birth And Marlborough is my name. In Devonshire I drew my breath, That place of noted fame. I was beloved by all my men, By kings and princes likewise. Though many towns I often took, I did the world surprise.

King Charles the Second I did serve To face our foes in France, And at the battle of Ramilies We boldly did advance; The sun was down, the moon did shine; So loudly did I cry: Fight on, my boys, for fair England, We'll conquer or we'll die.

Now we have gain-ed the victory And bravely kept the field. We took a number of prisoners And forc-ed them to yield. That very day my horse got shot All by a musket ball, And ere I mounted up again My aide-de-camp did fall.

Now on a bed of sickness prone I am resigned for to die. You generals and champions bold, Stand true as well as I. Unto your colours stand you true And fight with courage bold. I've led my men through fire and smoke, But ne'er was bribed with gold.

(70)

### XXX THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.



























### XXXI JACK HALL.







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#### XXXII

# DASHING AWAY WITH THE SMOOTHING IRON.



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2. 'Twas on a Tuesday morning, When I beheld my darling; She looked so neat and charming In every high degree; She looked so neat and nimble, O, A-hanging out her linen, O, Dashing away with the smoothing iron, Dashing away with the smoothing iron, She stole my heart away.

(The lines in Italics are repeated in every verse.) 3. 'Twas on a Wednesday morning, etc. A-starching of her linen, O, etc. , 4. Twas on a Thursday morning, etc. A-ironing of her linen, O, etc.

5. Twas on a Friday morning, etc. A-folding of her linen, O, etc.

6. 'Twas on a Saturday morning,etc. A-airing of her linen, O, etc.

7. 'Twas on a Sunday morning, etc. A-wearing of her linen, O, etc.

#### XXXIII

### THE ROBBER.







М

### XXXIV JOHN BARLEYCORN.




































## XXXV

## POOR OLD HORSE.

### (WARWICKSHIRE.)



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- My clothing was once of a linsey-woolsey fine, My mane it was long and my body it did shine; But now I'm getting old and going to decay, My master frowns upon me, and thus they all do say: Poor old horse!
- My living was once on the best of corn and hay As ever grew in England, and that they all do say; But now there's no such comfort that I can find at all, I'm forced to nab the short grass that grows against the wall. Poor old horse!
- 3. My lodging was once in a stable so warm To keep my tender limbs and my body from all harm; But now in open fields I am forc-ed for to go To face cold windy weather, likewise sharp frost and snow. Poor old horse!
- 4. "He's lame and he's lazy, he eats my corn and hay, He eats my corn and hay, and he spoileth all my straw; Besides he is not fit within my shafts to draw, So whip him, stick him, shoot him, and a-hunting let him go." Poor old horse!
- 5. My hide unto the huntsman so freely I would give, My body to the fox dogs—I'd rather die than live, Although these gallant limbs they have run so many miles O'er hedges, ditches, bramble bed, likewise o'er gates and stiles. Poor old horse!

XXXVI BOTANY BAY.





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# XXXVII ADMIRAL BENBOW.





# XXXVIII BOLD NELSON'S PRAISE.



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# XXXIX SPANISH LADIES.







**4**.

Then the signal was made for the grand fleet to anchor, And all in the Downs that night for to lie; Let go your shank painter, let go your cat stopper! Haul up your clewgarnets, let tacks and sheets fly! 5.

Now let ev'ry man drink off his full bumper, And let ev'ry man drink off his full glass; We'll drink and be jolly and drown melancholy, And here's to the health of each true-hearted lass.

Chorus. We will rant and we'll roar like true British sailors, We'll rant and we'll roar all on the salt seas, Until we strike soundings in the channel of old England: From Ushant to Scilly is thirty-five leagues.

XL THE SHIP IN DISTRESS.



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XLI COME ALL YOU WORTHY CHRISTIAN MEN.





Ρ







# THE KEYS OF CANTERBURY.

# XLIII THE KEYS OF CANTERBURY.





#### 5.

O Madam, I will give to you A little golden bell, To ring for all your servants And make them serve you well, If you will be my joy, my sweet and only dear, And walk along with me, anywhere.

#### 6.

I shall not, Sir, accept of you A little golden bell, To ring for all my servants And make them serve me well. I will not be your joy, your sweet and only dear, Nor walk along with you, anywhere.

### 7.

O Madam, I will give to you A gallant silver chest, With a key of gold and silver And jewels of the best, If you will be my joy, my sweet and only dear, And walk along with me, anywhere. 8.

I shall not, Sir, accept of you A gallant silver chest, A key of gold and silver Nor jewels of the best. I will not be your joy, your sweet and only dear, Nor walk along with you, anywhere.

#### 9.

O Madam, I will give to you A broidered silken gownd, With nine yards a-drooping And training on the ground, If you will be my joy, my sweet and only dear, And walk along with me, anywhere.

#### 10.

O Sir, I will accept of you A broidered silken gownd, With nine yards a-drooping And training on the ground: Then I will be your joy, your sweet and only dear, And walk along with you, anywhere.

# XLIV MY MAN JOHN.













### XLV

O NO, JOHN.







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4. O Madam, I will give you jewels; I will make you rich and free; I will give you silken dresses. Madam, will you marry me? O No, John! No, John! No, John! No! 5.

O Madam, since you are so cruch, And that you do scorn me so, If I may not be your lover, Madam,will you let me go? O No, John! No, John! No, John! No!

6.

Then I will stay with you for ever, If you will not be unkind, Madam, I have vowed to love you; Would you have me change my mind? O No, John! No, John! No, John! No! XLVI THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS.











### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

1st voice 2nd voice 1st voice 2nd voice 1st voice	Come and I will sing to you. What will you sing to me? I will sing one one-e-ry. What is your one-e-ry? One and One is all alone, and evermore shall be so.
	Come and I will sing to you. What will you sing to me? I will sing you two-e-ry. What is your two-e-ry? Two and two are lily-white babes a-clothed all in green, O! One and One is all alone, and evermore shall be so.
1st voice 2nd voice 1st voice 2nd voice 1st voice	Come and I will sing to you. What will you sing to me? I will sing you three-e-ry. What is your three-e-ry? Three of them are thrivers, And two and two are lily-white babes a-clothed all in green, O! One and One is all alone, and evermore shall be so.
1st voice 2nd voice 1st voice 2nd voice 1st voice	Come and I will sing to you. What will you sing to me? I will sing you four-e-ry. What is your four-e-ry? Four are gospel makers. Three of them are thrivers, And two and two are lily-white babes a-clothed all in green, O! One and One is all alone, and evermore shall be so.

(The remaining verses are sung after the manner of all cumulative songs, i.e., each verse deals with the next highest number and contains a new line. The additional lines are shown in the last and twelfth verse which follows).

ist voice	Come and I will sing to you.
2nd voice	What will you sing to me?
ist voice	I will sing you twelve-e-ry.
2nd voice	What is your twelve-e-ry?
1st voice	Twelve are the twelve apostles.
	Eleven and eleven are the keys of heaven,
	And ten are the ten commandments.
	Nine are the nine that brightly shine,
	And eight are the eight commanders.
	Seven are the seven stars in the sky,
	And six are the six broad waiters.
	Five are the flamboys under the boat,
	And four are the gospel makers.
	Three of them are thrivers,
	And two and two are lily-white babes a clothed all in green, O!
	One and One is all alone, and evermore shall be so.

## XLVII THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.







## XLVIII

THE TREE IN THE WOOD.



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#### 1.

All in a wood there was a tree, And a funny and a curious tree; And the tree was in the wood, And the wood lay down in the valley below.

#### 2.

And on this tree there was a bough, And a funny and a curious bough; And the bough was on the tree, And the tree was in the wood, And the wood lay down in the valley below.

3.

And on this bough there was a twig, And a funny and a curious twig; And the twig was on the bough, And the bough was on the tree, And the tree was in the wood, And the wood lay down in the valley below.

**4**.

And on this twig there was a nest, And a funny and a curious nest; And the nest was on the twig, And the twig was on the bough, And the bough was on the tree, And the tree was in the wood, And the wood lay down in the valley below. 5.

And in this nest there was an egg, And a funny etc.

6.

And in this egg there was a bird, And a funny etc.

### 7.

And on this bird there was a head, And a funny etc.

### 8.

And on this head there was a feather, And a funny and a curious feather; And the feather was on the head, And the head was on the bird, And the bird was in the egg, And the egg was in the nest, And the nest was on the twig, And the twig was on the twig, And the bough was on the tree, And the tree was in the wood, And the wood lay down in the valley below.

 $^{*}$  This bar is sung twice in the third verse, three times in the fourth verse, etc. etc.

### THE BARLEY-MOW.

Solo.O I will drink out of the nipperkin, boys;Chorus.So here's a good health to the barley mow.The nipperkin and the brown bowl.So here's a good health to the barley mow.

O I will drink out of the pint, my boys; So here's a good health to the barley mow. The pint, the nipperkin and the brown bowl. So here's a good health to the barley mow.

O I will drink out of the quart, my boys; So here's a good health to the barley mow. The quart, the pint, the nipperkin and the brown bowl. So here's a good health to the barley mow.

The song proceeds after the usual manner of cumulative songs, an additional measure being added to each verse. The last verse runs as follows:—

O I will drink out of the clouds, my boys;
So here's a good health to the barley mow.
The clouds, the ocean, the sea, the river, the well, the tub, the but, the hogshead, the keg, the gallon, the quart, the pint, the nipperkin and the brown bowl.
So here's a good health to the barley mow.

XLIX THE BARLEY-MOW.





\* There will be three  $\frac{3}{6}$  bars in the next verse, four in the fifth verse, and so on.

\* These bars must be sung with increasing speed as the song develops.

L ONE MAN SHALL MOW MY MEADOW.



\* This bar must be played twice in the 2nd verse, three times in the 3rd verse, and so on.

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