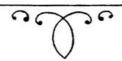
FOLK-SONGS OF THE KENTUCKY MOUNTAINS



Twenty Traditional Ballads and Other English Folk-Songs

NOTATED FROM THE SINGING OF THE

KENTUCKY MOUNTAIN PEOPLE

AND

ARRANGED WITH PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT

BY

JOSEPHINE MGGILL

INTRODUCTORY NOTE BY

H. E. Krehbiel

Price \$1.00 net

BOOSEY & C. NEW YORK - TORONTO - LONDON. (ENG.) 9 EAST 17 15 ST. RYRIE BLDG., YONGE ST. 295 REGENT ST., W.

AN INTRODUCTORY NOTE

When, in April, 1916, I published in The New York Tribune, the words and tunes of several English ballads, received from Miss Josephine McGill, as they had been handed down orally for generations among the mountaineers of Kentucky, I accompanied the publication with some brief comments on the success which had of recent years accompanied the efforts to collect these ancient Songs in the South Atlantic States. An explanation of the phenomenon was found, or at least sought, in the circumstance that there has been a larger survival of the old English and Scottish ballad in the mountainous regions of Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, Georgia and the Carolinas, than elsewhere in the country, because of the isolation in which their inhabitants lived. There can be no doubt. however, that much of the success of the Southern collectors is due to their extraordinary zeal, stimulated by the fact that romantic elements have attended their researches, which are absent in cities and more populous rural districts. Urban peoples feel little interest in traditions of any kind. Their lives are too full of contemporaneous distractions, diversions and entertainments. Moreover, he who wants folksongs must go after them, and his search must be laboriously and systematically conducted.

When Professor Child, of Harvard University, made his monumental collection, and still more monumental comparative study, he was thrown chiefly upon the manuscripts and printed collections which he could find in Europe. He did not have such an admirable agency as the present English Folk-Song Society, to help him, by collecting songs from the mouths of folksong singers in Great Britain; and for traditional American versions he was thrown wholly upon chance, and the interest of a few friends. Had he undertaken a lecture-tour of the country, and appealed to his hearers to make him the repository of their memories, he would have gleaned a richer harvest. Such, at least, has been my experience. For some years I have talked to a considerable number of clubs, schools and popular audiences, between the Atlantic and the Mississippi River, on the subject

of "Wandering Ballads." I seldom left a meeting without at least one contribution to my portfolios.

The "Journal of American Folk-Lore" has done good work in the folk-song field for ten years or more; but the contributions have been desultory; and, though the musical side of the quest has not been neglected altogether, the record of variant texts has been much larger than the record of melodies. Now the musical side of the study is receiving the attention of musical experts. The melodies of a large collection of ballads made by Mrs. John C. Campbell, of Asheville, N. C., have undergone scrutiny and revision from Mr. Cecil J. Sharp, an acknowledged English authority, who also collated them with oral tradition. Miss McGill had been earlier in the field, but since her first fruits were exhibited by The Tribune, Mr. Howard Brockway and Miss Lorraine Wyman have visited the district, in Kentucky, which Miss McGill had already partially gleaned. Through Miss McGill's publication, and others, I make no doubt but that some of the old songs will find their way into the concert rooms, and thus attain to new life and a wider currency.

From Hindman, Kentucky, I hear that an English example, which has been very fruitful of results, has been followed, and the ballad tunes sung at the Settlement School, which has been headquarters of collectors. Two years ago Professor Reed Smith reported in "The Journal of American Folk-Lore," that the tunes of ballads collected in Georgia were sung in the Mount Berry School, in that State, and in the Spring of 1916 the Varsity Quartette of the University of South Carolina, sang five ballads at the meeting of the State Teachers' Association. In The Tribune I also directed attention to the unique and agreeable enterprise of the Edith Rubel Trio, in playing at its concerts artistic arrangements of some of the Kentucky Ballads collected by Miss McGill. Plainly, folk-song is having a real awakening, and interest in it is no longer to be merely scientific or literary, and confined to the few.

New York, March 6, 1917.

H. E. KREHBIEL.

PREFACE

It has been said that a good melody is not for an age—but for all time. Such a conclusion is inevitable to one who finds in remote sections of the world melodic survivals whose ancestry can be traced to far distant lands and climes.

Shut off in his fastnesses, the Kentucky mountaineer has preserved as a proud heritage many traditional ballads, and other fine old Scotch and English folk-songs brought to America by his colonial ancestors.

From a literary point of view, the most valuable of these survivals are the ballads which, according to the ancient ballad tradition, are always sung (not recited) by the mountain balladist. The lament called forth from the mother of the Ettrick Shepherd on the publication of the Border Minstrelsy: "Ye ha'e broken the charm now, and they'll never be sung mair," was indeed prophetic; for it is only in such isolated regions as the Kentucky mountains that one may still hear "these canticles of love and woe" chanted as in days of old.

Besides the ballads, however, there are other traditional songs, such as "The Cuckoo," "As I Walked Out," et cetera, less interesting for their literary value, but having a vital melodic charm which our age can ill afford to lose.

The present collection was made during the autumn of 1914, in Knott and Letcher Counties, Kentucky, in the heart of the mountain region—many miles from the nearest railroad.

Sincere thanks are expressed to all who assisted in the making of the collection, which was suggested by Miss May Stone, head of the Settlement School at Hindman, Knott County, Kentucky.

For advice about the literary texts particular indebtedness is felt toward Miss Lucy Furman, (author of Mothering on Perilous) whose long residence in the mountains makes her opinion one to be highly valued.

Acknowledgment is made to the following mountain people, from whose singing the airs were notated:—

Mrs. Sally Adams, Mrs. Dave Mullins, Mrs. Martha Richie, Mrs. Julie Morgan, Mrs. Isom Richie, Mr. Will Wooten, Mrs. Tom Witt, Mrs. Betty Jane Smith, Mr. Wiley Parks, and the children of the Hindman Settlement School.

To Messrs. Jason Richie, Rob Morgan, and Senator Hillard Smith, who were frequently consulted, especial thanks are due.

JOSEPHINE McGILL.

DEDICATION:

To those in the Kentucky Mountains

"who take delight in singing,"

these arrangements

are dedicated

by

"The strange woman who went among them

looking for Song-Ballets".

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^{*} Asterisks indicate ballads as distinguished from the other songs in this volume. The titles and numbers in parentheses are those given in the Cambridge Edition of Professor Child's English and Scottish Popular Ballads.

LADY GAY.

There was a lady, a lady gay,
Of children she had three;
She sent them away to the north countrie
To learn high gramarye.

They had been gone but a very little while, Scarcelie three weeks to a day; When death, cold death came hasting along, And stole those babes away.

"If there is a King in heaven," she said,
"That wears the brightest crown,
Pray send to me my three little babes
Tonight or in the morning soon."

It was just about old Christmas time,
The nights being cold and clear;
She looked and saw her three little babes
Come running home to her.

She set a table both long and wide,
Put on it bread and wine;
"Come eat and drink, my three little babes,
Come eat and drink of mine."

"We do not want your bread, mother, We do not want your wine; For yonder stands our Saviour dear, To Him we must resign."

She fixed a bed in the long back room, Spread over it fine sheets, And covered it with a cloth of gold, That the sounder her babes might sleep.

Up rose the oldest one in the bed,
"The cock's a-crowing for day;
We're going never to come back again,
Away, and away, and away.

Green grass grows over our heads, mother, Cold clay is under our feet; And ev'ry tear that you shed for us It wets our winding sheet."

Lady Gay



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LORD LOVEL.

Lord Lovel he stood at his castle wall Combing his milk-white steed; Down came the Lady Nancie Belle A-wishing her lover good speed.

"Where are you going, Lord Lovel?" she cried, "Where are you going?" cried she; "I'm going, my dear Lady Nancie Belle, Strange countries for to see."

"When will you come back, Lord Lovel?" she cried, "When will you come back?" cried she; "In a year or two, or three at most, I'll return to my Lady Nancie."

He hadn't been gone but a year and a day Strange countries for to see, When a languishing thought came over his mind— It was of the Lady Nancie.

He rode and he rode on his milk-white steed Until he came to the town; And there he heard St. Pancras' bells, And the people all mourning round.

"What is the matter?" Lord Lovel, he cried, "What is the matter?" cried he; "There's a lord's lady dead," the women replied, "Some call her the Lady Nancie."

He ordered the grave to be opened wide, The shroud to be turned down; He kissed, and kissed her clay-cold lips, Then the tears came trinkling down.

"I'll take a kiss, kind Madam," said he,
"I am sure you can never kiss me;
But I'll vow a vow to great God above
That I'll never kiss lips after thee."

Lady Nancie Belle died like it might be today; Lord Lovel, like it might be tomorrow; Lady Nancie Belle died for pure, pure grief; Lord Lovel, he died for sorrow.

Landy Nancie was laid in St. Pancras' Church, Lord Lovel was laid in the choir; And out of her breast there grew a red rose, And out of his a briar.

They grew, and they grew to the old church top, Then they could grow no higher; There they tied in a true lover's knot For all true lovers to admire.

Lord Lovel



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THE GYPSIE LADDIE

There came two gypsies from the north, They were all wet and weary O; They sang so neat and so complete, It charmed the heart of the lady O.

The squire he came home one night
Inquiring for his lady O;
The news so quickly lit on him,—
"She's gone with the dark-eyed gypsie O."

"Go saddle up my milk-white steed, Go saddle up my browny O; And I will ride both night and day To overtake my honey O."

He rode east and he rode west, He rode north and southward too; There he spied his sweet little miss A-following the dark-eyed gypsie O.

She pulled off the garment that she wore, And laid it down for a head-rest O; She lay on the grass and drank of the dew; And followed the dark-eyed gypsie O.

"Would you forsake your house and land, Would you forsake your baby O; Would you forsake your own true love, And follow the gypsie laddie O?"

"What cares I for house and land,
What cares I for money O;
I'd rather have a kiss from the gypsie's lips
Than all your land and money O."

The Gypsie Laddie







LORD RANDAL.

- "Where have you been, Randal, it's Randal my son, Where have you been, Randal, my pretty sweet
- "O I've been a-courting, mother make my bed soon, For I'm sick at the heart, and I fain would lie down."
- "What did you have for your supper, it's Randal my son,
- What did you have for your supper, my pretty sweet one?"
- "Fried eels and fresh butter, mother make my bed soon,
 - For I'm sick at the heart and I fain would lie down."
- "What will you leave to your father, it's Randal my son,
- What will you leave to your father, my pretty sweet one?"
- "A chest of fine clothing, mother make my bed soon,
 For I'm sick at the heart, and I fain would lie
 down."
- "What will you leave to your brother, it's Randal my son,
- What will you leave to your brother, my pretty sweet one?"
- "My horse and fine saddle, mother make my bed soon,
- For I'm sick at the heart, and I fain would lie down."
- "What will you leave to your sister, it's Randal my son,
- What will you leave to your sister, my pretty sweet one?"
- "My land and fine buildings, mother make my bed soon,
- For I'm sick at the heart, and I fain would lie down."
- "What will you leave to your sweetheart, it's Randal my son,
- What will you leave to your sweetheart, my pretty sweet one?"
- "A rope and a gallows, mother make my bed soon, For I'm sick at the heart, and I fain would lie down."
- "What will you leave to your mother, it's Randal my son,
- What will you leave to your mother, my pretty sweet one?"
- "A dead son to bury, mother make my bed soon,
 For I'm sick at the heart, and I fain would lie
 down."

Lord Randal









LITTLE SPARROW.

Come all you fair and tender ladies, Take warning how you court young men; They are like a star in the cloudy morning, They first appear and then they're gone.

They tell to you some lovely story, They swear to you their love is true; Then away they'll go and court some other, And that's the love they have for you.

I wish I were some little sparrow, And I had wings and I could fly; I would fly away to my false lover, And while he'd talk I'd sit and cry.

But I am not a little sparrow, I have no wings, nor can I fly; I will sit down in grief and sorrow, And pass my trouble by and bye.

I wish I'd known before I courted, That love had been so hard to gain; I'd have locked my heart with a key of golden, And tied it down with a silver pin.

Young men ne'er cast your eyes on beauty, For it's a thing that will decay; The prettiest flowers that grow in the garden, They soon will wither and fade away.

Little Sparrow





LORD THOMAS.

"O mother, O mother, come riddle my sport, Come riddle it all as one; Must I go marry Fair Ellender, Or bring the brown girl home?"

"The brown girl she has house and lands, Fair Ellender, she has none; I warn you on my blessing, Sir Thomas, Go bring the brown girl home."

"Go saddle up my milk-white steed, Go saddle him up for me; I'll go invite fair Ellender, My wedding for to see."

He rode, he rode till he came to the hall, He tingled all on the ring; Nobody so ready as Fair Ellender, To rise and let him come in.

"What news, what news," fair Ellender cried, "What news have you brought to me?"
"I've come to invite you to my wedding.
Is that good news for thee?"

"Bad news, bad news," fair Ellender cried,
"Bad news have you brought to me;
I once did think I would be your bride,
And you my bridegroom would be."

"O mother, O mother, come riddle my sport, Come riddle it all as one; Must I go to Lord Thomas's wedding, Or tarry at home with thee?"

"O enemies, enemies you have there, The brown girl she has none; I warn you on my blessing, my child, To tarry this day at home."

"There may be many of my friends, mother, But many more of my foes; But if I never return again, To Lord Thomas's wedding I'll go."

She dressed herself in scarlet red, Her maids she dressed in green; And every town that she passed through, They took her to be some queen.

LORD THOMAS .- Continued

She rode, she rode till she came to the hall, She tingled all on the ring; Nobody so ready as Lord Thomas himself, To rise and bid her come in.

He took her by the lily-white hand, And led her through the hall; And set her down in a golden chair, Among the ladies all.

"Is this your bride?" fair Ellender cried,
"That looks so wondrous brown?
You once could have married as fair a ladie
As ever the sun shone on."

"Despise her not, Fair Ellen," he cried, "Despise her not to me;
I love the end of your little finger,
Much better than her whole bodie."

The brown girl had a little penknife, It was both keen and sharp; Between the long ribs and the short, She pierced fair Ellender's heart.

"O what is the matter?" Lord Thomas, he cried, "O are you blind?" cried she; "And don't you see my own heart's blood, Come trickling down my knee?"

He caught the brown girl by the hand, And led her across the hall; He drew a bright sword, he cut off her head, And threw it against the wall.

"O mother, O mother, go dig my grave, Go dig it wide and deep; And place fair Ellender at my head, The brown girl at my feet."

He placed the butt against the wall, The point against his breast; Saying: "Here's the end of three poor lovers, God take them all to rest."

Lord Thomas













THE CUCKOO.

A-walking and talking, a-walking goes I, To meet my true lover, we'll meet by and bye; For meeting's a pleasure, and parting's a grief, An inconstant lover is worse than a thief.

A thief will but rob you and take all you have, An inconstant lover will bring you to the grave; The grave will consume you, and turn you to dust; There's not one in a thousand a poor girl can trust.

Come all you pretty fair maids take warning by me, Never place your affections on a green growing tree;

For the leaves they will wither, the roots will decay, The beauty of a fair one will soon pass away.

Cuckoo is a pretty bird, she sings as she flies, She brings us good tidings, and tells us no lies; She sucks all sweet flowers to keep her voice clear, She never cries "Cuckoo" till spring of the year.

The Cuckoo (1)





The Cuckoo (2)





BARBARA ALLEN.

All in the merry month of May, When green buds they were swelling; Young Jemmy Grove on his death bed lay For love of Barbara Allen.

He sent his servant to the town, The town where she was dwelling; "Fair maid there is a call for you, If your name be Barbara Allen."

So slowlie, slowlie she got up, And slowlie she went to him; But all she said when she got there, "Young man, I think you're dying."

"O yes, I'm sick and very sick, And death is with me dealing; No better will I ever be If I don't get Barbara Allen."

"O don't you remember in yonder town, When the red wine you were filling; You drank a health to the ladies all around And slighted Barbara Allen?"

"O yes, I remember in yonder town,
When the red wine I was filling;
I drank a health to the ladies all around,
But my love to Barbara Allen."

He turned his pale face to the wall While death was with him dealing; "Adieu, adieu to my dear friends all, Be kind to Barbara Allen."

As slow-lie, slow-lie she got up, As slow-lie she went from him; The birds they sang so clear in her car, "Hard-hearted Barbara Allen."

As she were walking o'er the fields, She heard those death bells knelling, And every stroke it seemed to say, "Hard-hearted Barbara Allen."

As she were walking through the streets, She saw the corpse a-coming; "Take off, take off that winding sheet, And let me look upon him."

The more she looked, the more she grieved, Till she bursted out a-crying: "O pick me up and take me home, For surely I am dying."

"O mother, mother, make my bed, Go make it long and narrow; Young Jemmy died for me today, I'll die for him tomorrow."

"O father, father, dig my grave, Go dig it deep and narrow; Young Jemmy died for me through love, I'll die for him through sorrow."

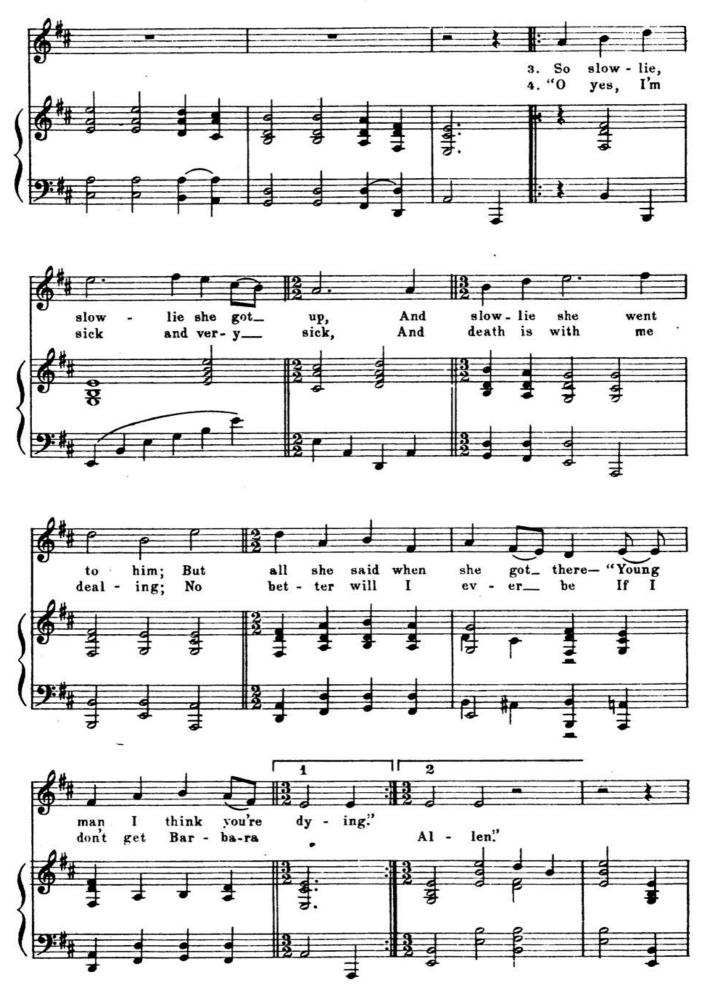
"Farewell," she said, "ye virgins all, And shun the fault I fell in; Henceforth take warning by the fate Of cruel Barbara Allen."

Barbara Allen



Wherever this name occurs, it may, if preferred, be abbreviated to-Barb'ra. Copyright MCMXVII by Boosey & Co.

1783









THE MERMAID.

Last Friday morning as we set sail, Not very far from land; We all espied a fair mermaid, With a comb and a glass in her hand.

*Chorus

The stormy winds do blow, blow blow, And the raging seas how they roar; And us three sailors climbing to the top, And the land all a-lying down below.

The first came up was the captain of the ship, And a jolly looking fellow was he; O I've this night in merry Eng-a-land, A wife that is weeping for me."

The next came up was a pretty little boy, And a pretty little fellow was he, Saying, "I've this night in merry Eng-a-land, A mother that's looking for me."

The next came up was the greasy old cook, And a greasy old fellow was he; Saying: "I care more for the kettle and the stove Than I do for the raging of the sea."

The gallant old ship, she turned herself around, Yes three times over again; The very last time she turned herself around, She sank to the bottom of the sea.

^{*}Chorus after each verse.

The Mermaid



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THE FORSAKEN GIRL.

I walked out one morning so early in spring, To hear the small birds whistle and the nightingales sing;

It was all at a distance, I heard a sad moan, "I am a poor strange girl and far from my home.

O William, O William, it's for your sake alone, That I left my poor father and mother to mourn; That I left my poor father and mother to mourn; I am a poor strange girl and far from my home.

O don't you remember last Saturday night,
The words that you said as you sat by my side?
You told me you loved me, your heart lay in my
breast.

That unless we got married you never could rest.

I'll build me a castle on yon mountain so high, Where the wild geese can see me as they do pass by:

Where the turtle dove can hear me and help me to mourn,

For I am a poor strange girl and far from my home."

The Forsaken Girl



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JOHN AND WILLIAM.

O John and William walked out one day To view the iron band. Says John to William, "At any price We'd better turn home again."

"O no," says William, "That can never be That we'll return again, For I'm the one loves pretty Susanne And I will murder thee."

"What will you tell to my mother dear, When she askes for her son John?"
"I left him at the cottage school His lessons for to learn."

"What will you tell to my father dear, When he askes for his son John?"
"I left him in the high wild woods
A-learnin' his hounds to run."

"What will you tell to my pretty Susanne When she askes for her true love John?" "I left him in the grave-lie deep, Never more to return."

She mourned the fish all out of the sea, The birds all out of the nest; She mourned her true love out of his grave Because that she could not rest.

"What do you want, my pretty Susanne, What do you want with me?"
"A kiss or two from your pretty bright lips Is all that I ask of thee."

"Go home, go home, my pretty Susanne,
Go home, go home," said he;
"If you weep and mourn all the balance of your
days
You'll never more see me."

John and William



1783







THE CHERRY TREE.

When Joseph was an old man, an old man was he, He married Virgin Mary, the Queen of Galilee.

As Joseph and Mary were walking one day Here are apples, here are cherries, enough to behold.*

Then Mary spoke to Joseph so meek and so mild, "Joseph gather me some cherries, for I am with child."

Then Joseph flew in anger, in anger flew he,
"Let the father of the baby gather cherries for
thee."

Then Jesus spoke a few words, a few words spoke He.

"Let my mother have some cherries, bow low down Cherry Tree."

The cherry tree bowed low down, bowed low down to the ground,

And Mary gathered cherries while Joseph stood around.

Then Joseph took Mary all on his right knee: "What have I done—Lord have mercy on me!"

Then Joseph took Mary all on his left knee: "O tell me little baby, when Thy birthday will be?"

"The sixth day of January my birthday will be, When the stars in the elements shall tremble with glee."

*The Cambridge Edition of Child's English and Scottish Popular Ballads gives two versions of this carol. In version A the above stanza appears thus:—

Joseph and Mary walked through an orchard green Where was berries and cherries as thick as might be seen.

The Cherry Tree





^{*}The Cambridge Edition of Child's English and Scottish Popular Ballads gives two versions of this carol. In version A the above stanza appears thus:

Joseph and Mary walked through an orchard green Where was berries and cherries as thick as might be seen.









AS I WALKED OUT.

As I walked out one evening late To hear the birds sing sweet, I sat me down in a lonesome grove To see true lovers meet.

To see true lovers meet, my love, And to hear what they had to say. To see true lovers meet, my love, And to hear what they had to say.

Come, sit you down by me, my love, Come, sit you on the green. It has been three-quarters of a long year Since together we have been.

"I can't sit down and I won't sit down,
For I've not a moment's time;
And more than that, you've another true love,
And your heart's no longer mine."

As I Walked Out



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SWEET WILLIAM.

Sweet William arose on last May morning, And dressed himself in blue; "Come, tell unto me that long, long love Between Lyddy Marget and you."

"I know no harm of Lyddy Marget, my love, I'm sure she knows none of me; By eight o'clock tomorrow morning Lyddy Marget my bride shall see."

Lyddy Marget was sitting in her own bower room A-combing her yellow hair; She saw Sweet William and his new bride As they came riding near.

Lyddy Marget threw down her golden comb, And quickly she bound up her hair; And away she went from her own bower room, No more to be seen there.

The day being past and night come on When all men were asleep, Lyddy Marget's ghost came about midnight And stood at Sweet William's bed feet.

"How do you like your bed?" she said,
"How do you like your sheet;
How do you like that fair ladie
That lies in your arms asleep?"

"Very well I like my bed," he said,
"Very well I like my sheet;
But better I like the fair ladie
That stands at my bed feet."

The night being gone and day come on, When all men were awake; Sweet William he rose with trouble on his mind From the dream that he dreamed last night.

"Such dreams, such dreams as I dreamed last night, Such dreams are never good; I dreamed my room was full of wild swine, My bride bed full of blood."

Sweet William he called his merry men all By ones, by twos and by threes; Before them all he asked his bride If Lyddy Marget he might go see.

SWEET WILLIAM-Continued

"What will you do with Lyddy Marget, my love, And what will you do with me?"
"Today I go see Lyddy Marget," he said,
"Tomorrow return to thee."

He rode till he came to Lyddy Marget's hall, And dingled so loud on the ring; And who so ready as her own brothers To rise and let him come in?

"Is Marget in her own bower room, Or is she in her hall, Or is she in the kitchen Among her merry maids all?"

"She's neither in the kitchen, She's neither in her hall; But she is in her own bower room Laid out against the wall."

"Raise up, raise up that coffin lid So I can gaze within; And let me kiss her clay-cold lips Lord send it the breath was in."

First he kissed her on the cheek, And then he kissed her chin; And then he kissed her clay-cold lips That oft times had kissed him.

"Fold down, fold down those snowy white sheets, All made of linen so fine; Today they hang over Marget's corpse, Tomorrow hang over mine."

Lyddy Marget died like it might have been today, Sweet William died tomorrow; Lyddy Marget died for pure, pure love, Sweet William died for sorrow.

Lyddy Marget was buried in the lower church yard, Sweet William was buried in the higher; And out of her grave there sprang a red rose, And out of his grave a briar.

They grew and they grew to the high church top, And then they could grow no higher; And there they tied in a true lover's knot The red rose and the briar.

Sweet William















BANGUM AND THE BOAR.

There is a wild boar in these woods, Dillom dom dillom. He eats our flesh and drinks our blood, Tum a qui quiddle quo qum.

How shall I this wild boar see?
Dillom dom dillom.
"Blow your horn and he'll come to thee."
Tum a qui quiddle quo qum.

Bangum blew his horn a blast,
Dillom dom dillom.

The wild boar came cutting oak and ash.

Tum a qui quiddle quo qum.

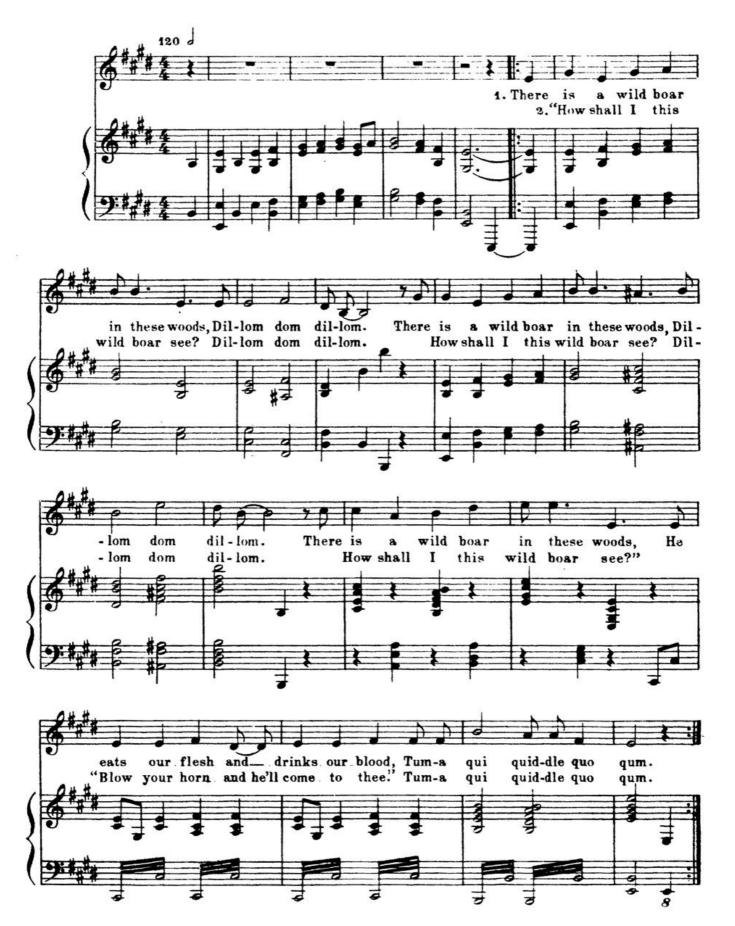
Bangum drew his wooden knife,
Dillom dom dillom.

And he worried the wild boar out of his life.

Tum a qui quiddle quo qum.

Bangum rode to the wild boar's den,
Dillom dom dillom.
And he found the bones of a thousand men.
Tum a qui quiddle quo qum.

Bangum and the Boar



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THE GREENWOOD SIDE.

There was a lady in yonder town, Alone, alonie O; She's taken her a walk one day Down by the greenwood sidey O.

She leaned her back against a thorn, Alone, alonie O; And there her two little babes were born Down by the greenwood sidey O.

She drew a penknife from her side, Alone, alonie O; She took her two little babies' lives Down by the greenwood sidey O.

She passed along again one day, Alone, alonie O; She saw her two little babes at play Down by the greenwood sidey O.

"O babes, O babes, if you were mine,"
Alone, alonie O;
"I'd dress you up in silk so fine"
Down by the greenwood sidey O.

- "O mother, O mother, when we were yours," Alone, alonie O;
- "You neither allowed us coarse nor fine" Down by the greenwood sidey O.
- "You drew a penknife from your side," Alone, alonie O;
- "You took your two little babies' lives"

 Down by the greenwood sidey O.
- "Seven long years you've rested well,"
 Alone, alonie O;
- "The rest of your life you'll spend in hell"

 Down by the greenwood sidey O.

The Greenwood Side









LOVING HANNAH.

- "Loving Hannah, loving Hannah, come give me your hand,
- And say if ever you marry, that I shall be the man."
- I rode to church on Sunday, my true love passed me by,
- I knew her mind was changing by the movements of her eye.
- When her parents saw me coming they flew in angry rage:
- "You must not steal my daughter, for she is under age."
- "Kind sir, to steal your daughter I never yet did try,
 - But court her in some bride-room I never will deny."
 - My love's both neat and proper, and she is very small,
 - And she is quite good looking, and that's the best of all.
- Her hair is black as the raven, her eyes as black as the crow,
- Her cheek as red as the rosie that blooms in the morning glow.
- If I were on some ocean or in some foreign town, I'd put my foot in a bonny boat and sail the world around.
- I'd sail all over the ocean, I'd sail all over the deep, I'd think of loving Hannah, and then sit down and weep.

Loving Hannah



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HER CHEEK IS LIKE SOME BLOOMING RED ROSE.

Her cheek is like some blooming red rose, All in the month of June; Her voice is like some sweet instrument, That's just been put in tune.

So fare you well, my own true love, So fare you well awhile; I am going away, but to come back again If it be ten thousand miles.

Her Cheek is Like Some Blooming Red Rose





THE "GOLDEN WILLOW TREE."

I had a little ship, and I sailed her on the sea, Crying: "O the land that lies so low;" I had a little ship, and I sailed her on the sea, And she went by the name of the "Golden Willow Tree." As we sailed in the lowlands low, low, As we sailed in the lowlands low.

We hadn't been sailing past weeks two or three, Crying: "O the land that lies so low;" We hadn't been sailing past weeks two or three, Till we came in sight of the British robberie, As we sailed in the lowlands low, low, low, As we sailed in the lowlands low.

Then up spake our little bold cabin boy,
Crying: "O the land that lies so low;"
Then up spake our little bold cabin boy,
Saying: "What will you give me if the ship I will destroy?"
As we sailed in the lowlands low, low,
As we sailed in the lowlands low.

"O I will give you gold, or I will give you fee,"
Crying: "O the land that lies so low;"
"O I will give you gold, or I will give you fee,
Or I'll give to you my daughter to sail with you on the sea,
If you'll sink her in the lowlands low, low,
If you'll sink her in the lowlands low."

He turned upon his breast, and away swam he, Crying: "O the land that lies so low;"
He turned upon his breast, and away swam he, And he swam till he came to the British robberie, As we sailed in the lowlands low, low, low, As we sailed in the lowlands low.

He had a little instrument prepared for the use, Crying: "O the land that lies so low;" He had a little instrument prepared for the use, And he bored nine holes, and he bored them all at once, As we sailed in the lowlands low, low, As we sailed in the lowlands low.

"O Captain, Captain, take me on board, Crying: 'O the land that lies so low, O Captain, Captain, take me on board, And be unto me as good as your word, For I've sunk her in the lowlands low, low, For I've sunk her in the lowlands low.'"

"I will not take you in on board,
Crying: 'O the land that lies so low,'
I will not take you in on board,
Nor be unto you as good as my word,
Though you've sunk her in the lowlands, low, low,
Though you've sunk her in the lowlands low."

"If it wasn't for the love that I bear for your men, Crying: 'O the land that lies so low,'
If it wasn't for the love that I bear for your men, I would do unto you as I've done unto them, I would sink you in the lowlands low, low, low, I would sink you in the lowlands low."

He turned upon his head, and down went he, Crying: "O the land that lies so low;" He turned upon his head, and down went he, And he sank himself to the bottom of the sea, As we sailed in the lowlands low, low, low, As we sailed in the lowlands low.

The "Golden Willow Tree"



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BABES IN THE WOODS.

My dear, do you know a long time ago,
Two little children whose names I don't know
Were stolen away on a bright sunny day
And were left in the woods, as I've heard people
say.

And when the night came on, so sad was their plight,

The sun had gone down and the moon gave no light.

The poor little children they sobbed and they cried And all in the darkness they laid down and died.

And when they were dead the robin so red Took strawberry leaves and over them spread, And all the day long this was their song— "O don't you remember the babes in the woods?"

Babes in the Wood







