ENGLISH FOLK SONGS

COLLECTED AND ARRANGED WITH PIANOFORTE ACCOMPANIMENT

CECIL J. SHARP

SELECTED EDITION

VOLUME I

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.

All the songs in this volume were originally published in *Folk Songs* from Somerset with the exception of Nos. 14, 36, and 42.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE first serious and sustained attempt to collect the traditional songs of the English people was made by the Rev. S. Baring-Gould some thirty years ago in the West of England. It is true that the Rev. J. Broadwood had made a small collection of Sussex songs and published them privately among his friends as far back as 1843, and that Miss Mason's Nursery Rhymes and Country Songs (1877) and Northumbrian Minstrelsy (1882) had both previously been given to the public. Nevertheless, the issue in 1889 of the First Part of Songs and Ballads of the West marked, I think, the real startingpoint of the movement, which has had for its aim the systematic collection and publication of the folk-music of England. Prior to that date the knowledge that folk-songs existed in this country was confined to very few, and it was popularly assumed that the English peasant was the only one of his class in Europe who had failed to express himself spontaneously in song and dance. How, in the face of the facts which have since been brought to light, such an amazing misconception could have obtained credence and escaped disproof is an enigma which has never been satisfactorily explained. Happily, this grotesque error was exposed before it was too late to make amends for the contemptuous neglect with which our predecessors had treated their national musical heritage. A few years later, with the passing of the last survivors of the peasant class, it would have been quite impossible to have recovered anything of real value, and the achievements of a great peasant art would have been irretrievably lost. It may be thought that, owing to the late hour at which the interest in our folk-music came ultimately to be aroused, it is but a shrunken harvest that has been garnered. But I do

not think this is so. That the postponement has added very materially to the difficulties of the collector-by compelling him, for instance, to take down his songs from aged and quavering throats instead of from young, fresh-voiced singers-is, of course, true enough. Nevertheless, I do not think that this has appreciably affected either the quality or the abundance of the recoveries. Indeed, our belated conversion has even had some actual advantages. For the investigations having thereby been postponed to a later and more scientific period, the work of collection has been conducted with a thoroughness, an accuracy, and honesty of purpose which we may be reasonably certain is not the treatment that work of this nature would have received a century or more ago. The present-day collector has realized that his first and chief obligation was to record just what he heard, no more and no less, and that the æsthetic as well as the scientific value of his work depended wholly upon the truthfulness and accuracy of his transcriptions. And if the investigations have throughout been conducted in this spirit—and it is a claim that may, I think, justly be made -this is owing in no small degree to the influence exercised by the Folk-Song Society (founded in 1898) and the example which, by means of its Journal, it has set to collectors.

There are two theories respecting the origin of the folk-song. Some hold that folk-songs were composed in the past by individuals, just like other songs, and have been handed down to us more or less *in*-correctly by oral tradition; that they were the fashionable and popular songs of a bygone day, the compositions of skilled musicians, which found their way into the country villages and remote neighbourhoods where, although long forgotten in the towns and cities of their origin, they have since been preserved. To put it in another way, the folk-song, it is contended, is not a genuine wild flower, but, in the jargon of the botanist, a "garden-escape."

The opponents of this school, however, remembering that folk-songs, as regards their authorship, are invariably anonymous, and, moreover, impressed by the fact that the essential characteristics of the folk-song —its sincerity, spontaneity, naturalness, and unconventionality—are the very qualities which are conspicuously absent from the popular song-music of the past, maintain that folk-music is the product not of the individual, but of a people or community, and that we are indebted to the process of oral tradition not merely for preserving it, but for moulding, developing, and, in a sense, creating it as well.

This is not the occasion to enter into a lengthy discussion upon an abstruse and highly controversial question of this sort. Suffice it to say that the writer is a stout upholder of the communal theory of origin; that he believes that the nature of the folksong and its history can be satisfactorily explained only on that hypothesis; that the most typical qualities of the folk-song have been laboriously acquired during its journey down the ages, in the course of which its individual angles and irregularities have been rubbed and smoothed away, just as the pebble on the seashore has been rounded by the action of the waves; that the suggestions, unconsciously made by individual singers, have at every stage of the evolution of the folk-song been weighed and tested by the community, and accepted or rejected by their verdict; and that the life history of the folksong has been one of continuous growth and development, always tending to approximate to a form which should be at once congenial to the taste of the community, and expressive of its feelings, aspirations, and ideals.

The careful preservation of its folk-music is to a nation a matter of the highest import.

Art, like language, is but a method of human expression, due to the development and specialization of qualities that are natural and inborn. If, therefore, it is to fulfil this function efficiently, it must never be divorced from, but must always faithfully reflect, those qualities which are peculiar to the nation from which it proceeds. A nation's music, for instance, must at every stage of its development be closely related to those spontaneous musical utterances which are the outcome of a purely natural instinct, and which proceed, it will always be found, from those of the community who are least affected by extraneous educational influences-that is, from the folk. The penalty that must inevitably be paid when this principle is ignored is well exemplified by the vicissitudes through which music in England passed after the death of Purcell. Prior to the Restoration, musical England held a proud and foremost position among the nations of Europe, a pre-eminence, however, which it completely lost immediately afterwards, and has never since regained. This very remarkable change was clearly brought about by, or at any rate synchronized with, the open disparagement—at first by the educated laymen, and later on by the musicians themselves-of our native music. and the corresponding exaltation of all that was of foreign manufacture. In other words, music in England, which had hitherto been distinctively and demonstrably English in character, fell from its high pedestal immediately it became divorced from the national tradition.

The collection and preservation of our folk-music, whatever else it has done, has at least restored the Englishman's confidence in the inherent ability of his countrymen to make fine music. Adverse conditions, political, economic, sociological, or what not, may for a time prevent him from making the fullest use of his national inheritance, and postpone the establishment of a distinctive school of music worthy of the tradition of his country; yet, sooner or later, given favourable conditions, English music will assuredly be re-born and once again assume that pre-eminence which it held before the Restoration.

A large number of English folk-tunes, perhaps a majority, are cast in one or other of the ancient diatonic modes, the ancestors of our modern scales. Hitherto, musicians have regarded these modes as relics of a bygone era, which were employed in the early days of the history of music in default of something better, but were eventually discarded (circa 1600) in favour of a scalesystem better suited to modern harmonic requirements. But the diatonic mode is the natural idiom of the English peasant, not one, be it noted, originally acquired from without, but one which he evolved from his own instinct. That the mode has always been, and is still, his natural vehicle of melodic expression, and cannot, therefore, be regarded in any way as evidence of antiquity, is shown by the manner in which the folk-singer will frequently translate into one or other of the modes the "composed" songs which he takes into his repertory. This technical characteristic of the folktune has brought the question of the mode and its value as an instrument of melodic expression very prominently before musicians. For here we have scores of melodies which, although cast in scales long since discarded by the art-musician, nevertheless throb with the pulse of life and make a strong appeal to modern musical taste and feeling. Manifestly, such tunes as these cannot be quietly dismissed as mediæval survivals and relegated, as such, to the lumber-room. They reveal, rather, a new species of melody, the possibilities of which, as a form of musical expression, the composer of the present day has already begun to explore.

The modes commonly used by the English peasant are the Æolian (typified by the whitenote scale of A), the Dorian (white-note scale of D), and the Mixolydian (white-note scale of G). The Phrygian (E), and the Lydian (F) he uses but rarely; a dozen tunes in the former mode and less than half that number in the latter are, perhaps, as many as English collectors have as yet unearthed.

Musically, we live in a harmonic age, when everyone, consciously or subconsciously, thinks in chords; when even the man in the street is under the influence—if only he knew it—of the underlying harmonies of the popular air he is whistling. And herein lies one of the fundamental distinctions between folk- and art-song. The former, in its purest form, being the product of those in whom the harmonic sense is dormant, is essentially a non-harmonic tune; whereas the latter is demonstrably constructed upon a harmonic basis.

This consideration leads to the inquiry as to what form the ideal accompaniment to a folk-song should take—a question upon which many divergent views may legitimately be held. The purist would dispense with an accompaniment altogether, on the ground that it is an anachronism. But this is surely to handicap the folk-tune needlessly and greatly to its detriment. Just as it takes an artist to appraise the value of a picture out of its frame, so is it the expert alone who can extract the full flavour from an unharmonized melody.

If, then, the need for an instrumental setting to the folk-song be granted, we have next to consider what should be its ideal form; and this, again, is largely a matter of individual taste. Sir Charles Stanford, for instance, advocates a frankly modern treat-"The airs," he says, "are for all ment. time, their dress must vary with the fashion of a fraction of time." Personally, I take a different view-and Sir Charles admits that there are two sides to the question. seems to me that of the many distinctive characteristics of the folk-air one of the most vital-at any rate, the one I would least willingly sacrifice--is that which makes it impossible to put a date or assign a period to it, which gives to the folk-air the quality of permanence, makes it impervious to the

passage of time, and so enables it to satisfy equally the artistic ideals of every age. Now if we follow Sir Charles Stanford's advice and frankly decorate our folk-tunes with the fashionable harmonies of the moment we may make very beautiful and attractive music—as Sir Charles has undoubtedly done—but we shall effectually rob them of their most characteristic folk-qualities, and thereby convert them into art-songs indistinguishable from the "composed" songs of the day.

Surely it would be wiser to limit ourselves in our accompaniments to those harmonies which are as independent of "period" as the tunes themselves; for example, those of the diatonic genus, which have formed the basis and been the mainstay of harmonic music throughout its history, and upon which musicians of every age and of every school have, in greater or less degree, depended; and further, seeing that the genuine folk-air never modulates, never wavers from its allegiance to one fixed tonal centre, to avoid modulation, or use it very sparingly. Personally, I have found that it is only by rigidly adhering to these two rules-if I may so call them-that I have been able to preserve the emotional impression which the songs made upon me when sung by the folksingers themselves. This, at any rate, is the theoretic basis upon which the accompaniments in this collection have been constructed.

After what has been already said with regard to the "editing" of folk-music, it is perhaps scarcely necessary to assure the reader that the tunes in this volume are presented precisely as they were originally taken down from the lips of the singers, without any alteration whatsoever. Logically, the words should be accorded the same treatment. But this, unhappily, it is not always possible to do. Indeed, it has reluctantly to be confessed that owing to various causes—the doggerel broadside-versions of the songs that have been disseminated throughout the country for the past several centuries; lapse

of memory; corruptions arising from the inability of the singer to understand words and phrases which have come to him from other parts of the country; the varying lengths of the corresponding lines of the several stanzas of the same song; the free and unconventional treatment of some of the themes, etc.--the words of the songs are sometimes coarse and often unintelligible. It has therefore been necessary to make alterations in the texts of some of the songs in this collection. Although archaic words and expressions have been retained, no attempt has been made to preserve local peculiarities of speech, it being the custom among folk-singers to use each his own particular dialect. I have only to add that whenever alterations have been made in the text, the fact is mentioned in the notes.

Before bringing these remarks to a conclusion, something should, perhaps, be said concerning the singing of folk-songs. Traditionally, English folk-songs are sung not only without gesture, but with the greatest restraint in the matter of expression; indeed, the folk-singer will usually close his eyes and observe an impassive demeanour throughout his performance. All who have heard him sing in this way will, I am confident, bear witness to the extraordinary effectiveness of this unusual mode of execution.

Artistically, it will, I think, be found that the most effective treatment to accord to the folk-song is to sing it as simply and as straightforwardly as possible, and, while paying the closest attention to the clear enunciation of the words and the preservation of an even, pleasant tone, to forbear, as far as may be, from actively and deliberately attempting to improve it by the introduction of frequent changes of time, crescendos, diminuendos, and other devices of a like character.

C. J. S.

Hampstead, London, 1919.

NOTES:

No. 1. Henry Martin.

VERSIONS of this ballad, with tunes, are in Mr. Kidson's *Traditional Tunes* (p. 30); in *Songs of the West* (No. 53, 2d ed.); and in the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume i., p. 162).

The words are on a Catnach broadside; and, in Percy's *Reliques*, there is a long and much edited ballad, called "Sir Andrew Barton," with which, however, the traditional versions have nothing in common.

In English and Scottish Ballads (No. 167), Child prints the versions in *Traditional Tunes* and Songs of the West, and gives, in addition, four other sets—one from Motherwell's MS., two traditional copies obtained from residents in the United States, and a Suffolk fragment contributed by Edward Fitzgerald to Suffolk Notes and Queries (Ipswich Journal, 1877-78).

In these several versions, the hero is variously styled Henry Martin, Robin Hood, Sir Andrew Barton, Andrew Bodee, Andrew Bartin, Henry Burgin, and Roberton.

Child suggests that "the ballad must have sprung from the ashes of 'Sir Andrew Barton' (Percy's *Reliques*), of which name 'Henry Martin' would be no extraordinary corruption." The Rev. S. Baring-Gould, in his note to the ballad in *Songs of the West*, differs from this view and contends that the Percy version is the ballad "as re-composed in the reign of James I., when there was a perfect rage for re-writing the old historical ballads."

I am inclined to agree that the two versions are quite distinct. "Sir Andrew Barton" deals with the final encounter between Barton and the King's ships, in which Andrew Barton's ship is sunk and he himself killed; whereas the traditional versions are concerned with a piratical raid made by Henry Martin upon an English merchantman. It is true that in Songs of the West, Henry Martin receives his death wound, but, as Child points out, this incident does not square with the rest of the story, and may, therefore, be an interpolation.

Unlike so many so-called historical ballads, this one is really based on fact. In the latter part of the 15th century, a Scottish seaofficer, Andrew Barton, suffered by sea at the hands of the Portuguese, and obtained letters of marque for his two sons to make reprisals upon the trading ships of Portugal. The brothers, under pretence of searching for Portuguese shipping, levied toll upon English merchant vessels. King Henry VIII. accordingly commissioned the Earl of Surrey to rid the seas of the pirates and put an end to their illegal depredations. The Earl fitted out two vessels, and gave the command of them to his two sons, Sir Thomas and Sir Edward Howard. They sought out Barton's ships, the Lion and the Union, fought them, captured them, and carried them in triumph up the river Thames on August 2, 1511.

I have noted down in different parts of England no less than seventeen variants of this ballad, and from the several sets of words so collected the lines in the text—practically unaltered—have been compiled.

The air is in the Dorian mode.

No. 2. Bruton Town.

THE tune, which is a very striking one, is in the Dorian mode. The singer varied the last phrase of the melody in four different ways (see English Folk Song : Some Conclusions, p. 23). For other versions of this ballad, see the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume ii., p. 42; volume v., pp. 123-127), where it has received a very searching analysis at the hands of Miss Lucy Broadwood, and Dr. H. M. Belden's Boccaccio, Hans Sachs, and The Bramble Briar (Publications of the Modern Language Association of America, xxiii., 3), in which the texts of several American traditional versions of the ballad are set out. It will be seen that the story is the same as that of Boccaccio's "Isabella and the Pot of Basil" in the Decameron, and of Keats's poem of the same name. It is true that "Bruton Town" breaks off at the wiping of the dead lover's eyes, and omits the gruesome incident of the planting of the head in the flower-pot; yet up to that point the stories are nearly identical. The song was popular with the minstrels of the Middle Ages, and was made use of by Hans Sachs, who derived his version from "Cento Novelli," a translation of the Decameron by Steinhöwel (1482). Hans Sachs names his heroine *Lisabetha* and retains the Italian tradition that Messina was the town where the rich merchant and his family dwelt. It is interesting to observe that this ballad is one of the very few that succeeded in eluding the notice of Professor Child.

The words of both the versions that I have collected are very corrupt, so that the lines given in the text have received some editing. For the original sets the student is referred to the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society*, quoted above.

No. 3. The Knight and the Shepherd's Daughter.

SEE Child's English and Scottish Ballads, No. 116.

Two versions of this ballad are in the *Roxburghe Collection* and in Percy's *Reliques*. Percy states that his version is "given from an old black-letter copy with some corrections," and that it was popular in the time of Queen Elizabeth, being usually printed with her picture before it. The fifth verse is quoted in Fletcher's comedy of *The Pilgrim* (1621).

Buchan gives two traditional forms of the ballad, "Earl Richard, the Queen's Brother," and "Earl Lithgow" (volume ii., pp. 81-91, ed. 1828). See also Motherwell's *Minstrelsy* (p. 377); Christie's *Traditional Ballad Airs* of Scotland (volume i., p. 184); and Kinloch's Ancient Scottish Ballads (pp. 15 and 25).

Kinloch says: "The Scottish language has given such a playful *naiveté* to these ballads that one would be apt to suppose that version to be the original, were it not that the invariable use of English titles, which are retained in all Scottish copies, betrays the ballad to have emanated from the south, although it has otherwise assumed the character of a northern production."

I have collected several variants of this ballad, four of which may be seen in the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume v., pp. 86-90). For two other versions see the third volume of the same publication (pp. 222 and 280).

The words in the text have been compiled from the several sets in my possession. With the exception of the lines in the second stanza, they are printed practically without alteration.

No. 4. Robin Hood and the Tanner.

THIS was sung to me by a blind man, eighty-two years of age, who told me that he learned it when a lad of ten, but that he had not sung it, or heard it sung, for forty years or more. He varied the several phrases of the tune, which is in the Dorian mode, in a free and interesting manner (see *English Folk-Song*; Some *Conclusions*, p. 21). I have chosen from these variations those which seemed to me to be the most characteristic. Except for one or two minor alterations, the words are given in the text precisely as they were sung to me.

The Robin Hood ballads, which, centuries ago, were extremely popular (although constantly denounced by the authorities), are now but rarely sung by the country folk. Those that have recently been collected are printed in the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume i., pp. 144 and 247; volume ii., p. 155; volume iii., pp. 61 and 268; and volume v., p. 94).

The words in the text follow with astonishing accuracy the corresponding stanzas of a black-letter broadside, which formerly belonged to Anthony à Wood, and is now preserved in the Bodleian Library. A copy of this broadside is printed in Ritson's *Robin Hood*, by Child (No. 126), and also on two 17th century Garlands. The full title on the blackletter is:

"Robin Hood and the Tanner; or, Robin "Hood met with his Match. A merry and "pleasant song relating the gallant and "fierce combat fought between Arthur "Bland, a tanner of Nottingham, and Robin "Hood, the greatest and noblest archer in "England. Tune is, Robin Hood and the "Stranger."

The first verse runs:

In Nottingham there lives a jolly tanner With a hey down, down, a down, down, His name is Arthur-a-Bland, There is never a squire in Nottinghamshire Dare bid bold Arthur stand.

Ritson gives a tune, which, however, bears no resemblance to the Somerset air, in the text.

Robin Hood is said to have been born in Locksley in Nottinghamshire about 1160, in the reign of Henry II. He was of noble blood, and his real name was Robert Fitzooth, of which Robin Hood is a corruption. He was commonly reputed to have been the Earl of Huntingdon, and it is possible that in the latter years of his life he may have had some right to the title. He led the life of an outlaw in Barnsdale (Yorks), Sherwood (Notts), and in Plompton Park (Cumberland), and gathered round him a large number of retainers. His chief lieutenants were Little John, whose surname is believed to have been Nailor; William Scadlock (Scathelock or Scarlet); George-a-Green, pinder or pound-keeper of Wakefield; Much, a miller's son; and Friar Tuck. It is said that he died in 1247, at the age of eightyseven, at the Kirkleys Nunnery in Yorkshire, whither he had gone to be bled, and where it is supposed that he was treacherously done to death.

The Robin Hood ballads were no doubt founded upon the French *trouvère*-drama, "Le Jeu de Robin et Marion," which, in its turn, was only a dramatized version, largely etiological, of the Nature myth, Robin and Maid Marian being the lineal descendants of the King and Queen of the May-day ceremonies. In this connection it is interesting to note that country singers call the hero "Robin o' the 'ood," that is, of the wood.

No. 5. The Wraggle Taggle Gipsies, O!

COMPARE this song with "The Gipsy Countess" (Songs of the West, No. 50, 2nd ed.) and "The Gipsy" (A Garland of Country Song, No. 32). A Scottish version of the words is in Ramsay's Tea-Table Miscellany (volume iv.); see also "Gypsie Laddie," in Herd's Ancient and Modern Scottish Songs (volume ii., p. 95, ed. 1791), and Child, No. 200. In Finlay's Scottish Ballads (1808), the ballad appears as "Johnnie Faa," and in Chambers's Picture of Scotland a valiant effort is made, after the manner of Scottish commentators, to provide the story with a historical foundation.

The tune is in the Æolian mode. I have noted no less than eighteen variants in England and seventeen in America (see English Folk-Songs from the Southern Appalachians).

No. 6. Lord Bateman.

THIS, again, is a very popular ballad with English folk-singers, and I have noted down nineteen different versions of it. The singer of the Æolian tune given in the text was the old man who gave me "Robin Hood and the Tanner," and here again he constantly varied his phrases in the several verses of the song (see *English Folk-Song*: Some *Conclusions*, p. 22). The words that he sang were virtually the same as those printed on broadsides by Pitts, Jackson, and others.

For versions of this ballad, with tunes, see English County Songs (p. 62); Mr. Kidson's Traditional Tunes (p. 32); Northumbrian Minstrelsy (p. 64); the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume i, p. 240; volume iii., pp. 192-200); Sussex Songs (p. 43); Kinloch's Ancient Scottish Ballads (p. 260 and appendix); and George Cruikshank's Loving Ballad of Lord Bateman.

For words only, see Jamieson's Popular Ballads (volume ii., p. 17); Garret's Newcastle Garlands (volume i.); and the broadsides above mentioned. The ballad is exhaustively analyzed in Child's English and Scottish Popular Ballads ("Lord Beichan," No. 53).

The story of Lord Bateman, Beichan, or Bekie, is very similar to the ancient legend concerning Gilbert Becket, father of Saint This has suggested Thomas the Martyr. to some the derivation of the ballad from the legend; but Child thinks that this is not so, although he admits that the ballad has not come down to us unaffected by the legend. He points out that there is a similar story in the Gesta Romanorum (No. 5, Bohn ed.), of about the same age as the Becket legend; that there are beautiful repetitions of the story in the ballads of other nations; and that it has secondary affinities with "Hind Horn." The hero's name, allowing for different spellings and corruptions, is always the same; but the name of In ten of the twelve the heroine varies. copies of the ballad that Child gives she is Susan Pye; in two, Isbel or Essels; and in the remaining two, Sophia, as in the text.

No. 7. Barbara Ellen.

THERE is no ballad that country singers are more fond of than that of "Barbara Ellen," or "Barbarous Ellen," or "Edelin," as it is sometimes called. I have taken down as many as twenty-seven variants, almost all of which are in 5-time. For other versions of the tune, see the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume i., pp. 111 and 265; volume ii., pp. 15-18); Kidson's Traditional Tunes (p. 39); Rimbault's Musical Illustrations to Percy's Reliques (p. 98); Christie's Traditional Ballad Airs (volume i., pp. 86-88); and Joyce's Ancient Irish Music (p. 79). The well-known Scottish tune was first printed in 1740. The ballad is in Child's collection (No. 276), where many versions and notes may be found.

No. 8. Little Sir Hugh.

VERSIONS of this ballad, with tunes, may be found in Miss Mason's Nursery Rhymes (p. 46); Motherwell's Minstrelsy (p. 51, tune No. 7); Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume i., p. 264); and in Rimbault's Musical Illustrations of Percy's Reliques (pp. 3 and 46). For versions without tunes, see Percy's Reliques (volume i., p. 27); Herd's Scottish Songs (volume i., p. 157); Jamieson's Popular Ballads (volume i., p. 151); Notes and Queries (Series I); and Child's English and Scottish Ballads (No. 155).

The story of this ballad is closely connected with that of the carols "The Bitter Withy" and "The Holy Well" (see the Journal of the Folk-Song Society, volume iv., pp. 35-46).

The events narrated in the ballad were supposed to have taken place in the 13th century. The story is told by a contemporary writer in the *Annals of Waverley*, under the year 1255. Little Sir Hugh was crucified by the Jews in contempt of Christ with various preliminary tortures. To conceal the act from the Christians, the body was thrown into a running stream, but the water immediately ejected it upon dry land. It was then buried, but was found

above ground the next day. As a last resource the body was thrown into a drinking-well; whereupon the whole place was filled with so brilliant a light and so sweet an odour that it was clear to everybody that there must be something holy in the well. The body was seen floating on the water and, upon its recovery, it was found that the hands and feet were pierced with wounds, the forehead lacerated, etc. The unfortunate Jews were suspected. The King ordered an inquiry. Eighteen Jews confessed, were convicted, and eventually hanged.

A similar tale is told by Matthew Paris (ob. 1259), and in the Annals of Burton (13th or 14th century). Halliwell, in his Ballads and Poems respecting Hugh of Lincoln, prints an Anglo-French ballad, consisting of ninetytwo stanzas, which is believed to have been written at the time of, or soon after, the event. No English ballad has been recovered earlier than the middle of the 18th century.

Bishop Percy rightly concludes "the whole charge to be groundless and malicious." Murders of this sort have been imputed to the Jews for seven hundred and fifty years or more; and similar accusations have been made in Russia and other countries of Eastern Europe even in the 19th century—and as late as 1883. Child sums up the whole matter by saying, "These pretended child-murders, with their horrible consequences, are only a part of a persecution which, with all its moderation, may be rubricated as the most disgraceful chapter in the history of the human race."

I have discovered three other versions of this ballad besides the one in this volume. The words in the text have been compiled from these sources. The singer learned the ballad from her mother, who always sang the first two lines as follows :

> Do rain, do rain, American corn, Do rain both great and small.

Clearly, "American corn" is a corruption of "In merry Lincoln"; and I hazard the guess that the "Mirry-land toune" in Percy's version is but another corruption of the same words.

The ballad is still freely and traditionally sung in America, where I have taken it down no less than thirteen times (*English Folk-Songs from the Southern Appalachians*).

The tune in the text is a close variant of "To-morrow is St. Valentine's Day" (Chappell's *Popular Music*, p. 227).

No. 9. Geordic.

FOR other versions with tunes, see Traditional Tunes (p. 24); Folk-Songs from the Eastern Counties (p. 47); English Traditional Songs and Carols (p. 32); English Folk-Songs from the Southern Appalachians; and Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume i., p. 164; volume ii., pp. 27 and 208; volume iii., p. 191).

The tune here given is modal, and, lacking the sixth of the scale, may be either Dorian or Æolian; it is harmonized as an Æolian melody.

Child (No. 209) gives several versions and exhaustive notes.

Buchan (Ancient Ballads and Songs, volume i., p. 133), prints a version, "Gight's Lady," and suggests that the ballad "recounts an affair which actually took place in the reign, or rather the minority, of King James VI. Sir George Gordon of Gight had become too familiar with the laird of Bignet's lady, for which the former was imprisoned and likely to lose his life, but for the timely interference of Lady Ann, his lawful spouse, who came to Edinburgh to plead his cause, which she did with success -- gained his life, and was rewarded with the loss of her own, by the hand of her ungrateful husband." The version in the text cannot, however, refer to this incident.

Kinloch (Ancient Scottish Ballads) agrees that "Geordie" was George Gordon, Earl of Huntly, and that the incident related in the ballad "originated in the factions of the family of Huntly, during the reign of Queen Mary." Motherwell, on the other hand, says that in some copies the hero is named George Luklie. In Ritson's *Northumberland Garland* (1793), the ballad is described as "A lamentable ditty made upon the death of a worthy gentleman named George Stoole."

James Hogg (*Jacobite Relics*) prints another version, and in the *Straloch Manuscripts* (early 17th century) there is an air entitled "God be wi' thee, Geordie."

The words are on broadsides by Such and others.

No. 10. Lady Maisry.

For other versions of the words only of this ballad, see Motherwell's *Minstrelsy* (p. 71), and Child's *English and Scottish Popular Ballads* (No. 65); and of the words with tunes, the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume i., p. 43; volume iii., pp. 74 and 304).

In the Scottish ballad, Lady Maisry rejects the Northern lords, who come to woo her, and enters into an illicit connection with an English nobleman, Lord William. During the absence of the latter, the brothers of Lady Maisry discover her secret and make preparations to burn her. She dispatches in hot haste a messenger to apprise Lord William of her danger. He hastens home to find her at the point of death. He swears to avenge her by burning her kinsmen, and

The last bonfire that I come to Myself I will cast in.

The first part of the story is omitted in this version, while the last four verses recall the ballad of "Lord Lovel," rather than that of "Lady Maisry."

The tune is in the Æolian mode.

No. 11. The Outlandish Knight.

CHILD, speaking of this ballad (*English and Scottish Ballads*, No. 4), remarks: "Of all the ballads this has perhaps obtained the widest circulation. It is nearly as well known to the southern as to the northern nations of Europe. It has an extraordinary currency in Poland."

I have taken it down no less than thirtysix times in England, and eighteen times in America (English Folk-Songs from the Southern Appalachians). Although very few singers could "go through with it," I have recorded several fairly complete sets of words, from which that given in this book has been compiled. As a rule the versions vary but little, although I have only once taken down the seventh and eighth stanzas given in the text. One singer, however, used the word "croppèd," instead of the more usual "droppèd," in the ninth stanza, and this may have been a reminiscence of the "nettle" theme. None of the printed copies contain these verses except one in the Roxburghe Collection, in which the following lines occur:

> Go fetch the sickle, to crop the ne!tle, That grows so near the brim; For fear it should tangle my golden locks, Or freckle my milk-white skin.

The Rev. S. Baring-Gould has collected a similar verse in Devonshire.

As "May Colvin," the ballad appears in Herd's Scottish Songs (volume i., p. 153), in Motherwell's Minstrelsy (p. 67, tune 24), and in Buchan's Ancient Ballads and Songs of the North of Scotland (volume ii., p. 45). Buchan also gives a second version of the ballad entitled "The Gowans sae Gay" (volume i., p. 22). In the latter, the hero appears as an elf-knight, and the catastrophe is brought about by the heroine, Lady Isabel, persuading her false lover to sit down with his head on her knee, when she lulls him to sleep with a charm and stabs him with his own dagger. None of the English versions introduce any supernatural element into the story. They all, however, contain the "parrot" verses.

The expression "outlandish" is generally taken to mean an inhabitant of the debatable territory between the borders of England and Scotland. In other parts of England, however, "outlandish" simply means "foreign," *i.e.*, not belonging to the country or district of the singer. One singer gave me the first verse as follows:

There was a knight, a baron-knight, A knight of high degree; The knight he came from the North land, He came a-courting me.

Child points out that the ballad has some affinity with "Bluebeard," and, possibly, also with the story of "Judith and Holofernes" in the Apocrypha.

For versions with tunes, see the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume ii., p. 282; volume iv., pp. 116-123); Traditional Tunes (pp. 26 and 172); English County Songs (p. 164); and a Border version in Northumbrian Minstrelsy (p. 48).

The tune is nearly always in 6-8 time, and is usually modal. The second air, however, in *Traditional Tunes* and a variant collected by the Rev. S. Baring-Gould in Devon and printed in *English Folk-Songs* for Schools, are both in common measure.

The singer varied his tune, which is in the Dorian mode, in nearly every verse.

No. 12. The Coasts of High Barbary.

A VERSION of this song, which the Rev. S. Baring-Gould collected in Devonshire, is published in *English Folk-Songs for Schools*. I have collected only one other version (*Journal of the Folk-Song Society*, volume 5, p. 262), the first stanza of which runs thus:

> Two lofty ships of war from old England set sail; Blow high, blow low, and so sailed we, One was the Princess Charlotte and the other the Prince of Wales. A-coming down along the coasts of Barbary.

The ballad is evidently related to an old broadside sea-song, which Mr. Ashton reproduces in his *Real Sailor Songs*. It is headed "The Sailor's onely Delight, shewing the brave fight between the George-Aloe, the Sweepstake, and certain Frenchmen at sea," and consists of twenty-three stanzas, the first of which runs:

> The George-Aloe and the Sweepstake, too. with hey, with hoe, for and a nony no, O, they were Merchant men, and bound for Safee and alongst the Coast of Barbary.

Mr. Ashton thinks that the "ballad was probably written in the latter part of the sixteenth century," and he points out that it is quoted in a play, "The Two Noble Kinsmen," written by "the Memorable Worthies, Mr. John Fletcher and Mr. William Shakespeare."

To the six verses which the singer sang to me I have added three others: two from the Devon version (with Mr. Baring-Gould's kind permission), and one—the last one in the text—from the broadside above mentioned.

The third phrase of the tune, which is in the Æolian mode, is not unlike the corresponding phrase of "When Johnny comes Marching Home Again." Compare, also, "Whistle, Daughter, Whistle" (No. 43).

No. 13. The Cruel Mother.

THE story, which is not quite clear in this version, is of a woman who contracts an illicit alliance with her father's clerk, and secretly gives birth to twin babes "down by the green wood side O." She murders the infants, who afterward appear before her "all dressed in white," that is, as ghosts. They proclaim their identity by calling her "Mother," curse her for her cruelty to them, and say that they live in heaven, but that she will suffer in hell for her misdeeds.

The earliest published form of the ballad is in Herd's *Scottish Songs* (volume ii., p. 237, ed. 1776). Other Scottish versions are given in Motherwell's, Kinloch's, and Buchan's collections; see also "Lady Anne," in Scott's *Minstrelsy*, and "Fine Flowers in the Valley," in Johnson's *Museum* (volume iv., ed. 1792). The tune given in the latter, although regular in rhythm, is very similar to the air given here.

Kinloch also quotes a tune which, however, has little or nothing in common with the Mixolydian air in the text.

In the *Percy Papers* there is a version very similar to this one. It begins:

There was a duke's daughter lived in York, All alone and alone a, And she fell in love with her father's clarke, Down by the green wood side a. Child (No. 20) points out that the ballad has affinities with "The Maid and the Palmer," and quotes two Danish ballads which are closely allied to the British song.

Four versions with tunes are printed in the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume ii., p. 109; volume iii., pp. 70-72), the first one of which was recorded by Miss Esther White, of New Jersey, who writes that "lately she heard it again, sung by a poor 'mountain-white' child in the North Carolina Mountains." I have collected twelve versions in America (English Folk-Songs from the Southern Appalachians).

No. 14. The Golden Vanity.

MANY versions of this ballad have been published with tunes, for example, the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume i., p. 104; volume ii., p. 244); English County Songs (p. 182); Songs of the West (No. 64, 2nd ed.); Tozer's Sailors' Songs and Chanties (No. 15); Songs of Sea-Labour (No. 42), etc. Child (No. 286) reprints a 17th century

broadside version, beginning :

Sir Walter Raleigh has built a ship In the Netherlands, And it is called the Sweet Trinity And was taken by the false Gallaly, Sailing in the Lowlands.

Mr. Ebsworth, in his introduction to the ballad in the *Roxburghe Ballads* (volume v., p. 418), points out that the selfishness and ingratitude displayed by Raleigh in the ballad agreed with the current estimate of his character.

The ballad is still freely sung by English folk-singers, from whom I have noted down twelve different versions, and in America where I gathered fourteen variants (English Folk-Songs from the Southern Appalachians).

No. 15. Lord Thomas of Winesberry.

I HAVE had to omit some of the words which the singer of this version gave me, and to supplement the rest with extracts from the three other variants I have collected. All the tunes that I have noted are of the same straightforward type.

The ballad is very nearly identical with the Scottish ballad of "Lord Thomas of Winesberry," and that is my excuse for appropriating that title. Scottish versions are printed in Buchan's Ancient Ballads of the North of Scotland (volume ii., p. 212), and in Kinloch's Ancient Scottish Ballads (p. 89). Kinloch makes an attempt to connect the subject of the ballad with "the secret expedition of James V. to France, in 1536, in search of a wife," which seems more ingenious than probable. In Buchan's version Thomas is chamberlain to the daughter of the King of France, who wanted none of her riches, as he had

> . . . thirty ploughs and three : An' four an' twenty bonny breast mills, All on the water of Dee.

Under the heading of "Willie o' Winsbury," Child treats the ballad very exhaustively (*English and Scottish Ballads*, No. 100). He gives a version from Motherwell's MS., in which the curious line, "But a fig for all your land," occurs. Shakspere uses the same expression, "A fig for Peter" (2 Henry VI., Act ii., Sc. 3).

Five verses of this ballad are given in Notes and Queries (Series 5, volume vii., p. 387), "as heard sung years ago by a West Country fisherman." As the late Mr. Hammond noted down more than one version in Dorset, the song has evidently taken root in the West of England, where all my versions were collected.

No. 16. The Green Wedding.

THE words of this ballad were sung to me to a very poor tune. I have, therefore, taken the liberty of mating them to a fine air which was sung to me to some very boisterous, unprintable words, called "The Boatsman and the Tailor." The occasional substitution of a minor for the major third in a Mixolydian tune is quite a common habit with English folk-singers, and several examples of this may be seen in this volume (see Nos. 30, 31, and 37b); but

for the major interval to be followed almost immediately by the minor is both curious and unusual. Miss Gilchrist has pointed out the close connection between "The Green Wedding" and the Scottish ballad "Katherine Janfarie," or "Jaffray," upon which Scott founded his ballad of " Lochinvar " in Marmion (see Child's English and Scottish Ballads, No. 21; Motherwell's Minstrelsy; Sidgwick's Popular Ballads of the Olden Time; and Scott's Minstrelsy).

In the Scottish ballad, Katherine is wooed first by the Laird of Lauderdale, who wins her consent, and secondly by Lord Lochinvar, "out frae the English border," who, however, omitted to avow his love to Katherine "till on her wedding e'en." The rivals met at the "wedding-house" and, in the fight that ensues, Katherine is carried off by her Scottish lover.

Whether our ballad is a corrupt and incomplete version of the Scottish one, it is difficult to say. Although the two have several lines in common, there is something in the plot of "The Green Wedding" which, despite its obscurity, seems to indicate a motive which is absent from "Katherine Janfarie." The scheme of our story seems to turn upon the dressing in green of both hero and heroine at the wedding-feast, but the purpose of this device is not clear. This, however, presented no difficulty to my singer, who, when I asked him why the hero dressed in green, said, "Because, you see, he had told his true-love to dress in green also"; and when I further inquired why he told her to do this, he said, "Because, of course, he was going to put on a green dress himself"-and there was clearly nothing more to be said !

It is just possible, as Miss Gilchrist observes, that the reference to the green dress may be a reminiscence of "Robin Hood and Allan-a-Dale"; or perhaps it has been suggested by the following stanza which occurs in "Katherine Janfarie": He's ta'en her by the milk-white hand, And by the grass-green sleeve; He's mounted her hie behind himsell, At her kinsmen speir'd na leave.

No. 17. The Seeds of Love.

THIS song, which is known to the peasantfolk all over England, is a modernized version of "The Sprig of Thyme," the next number in this collection. According to Whittaker's *History of the Parish of Whalley*, the words were written by a Mrs. Fleetwood Habergam, *circa* 1689, who, "undone by the extravagance, and disgraced by the vices of her husband," soothed her sorrows by writing of her woes in the symbolism of flowers. But this, of course, is merely a case of "intrusion."

Chappell (*Popular Music of the Olden Time*), who suggests that Mrs. Habergam's lines were originally sung to the tune of "Come open the door, sweet Betty," prints a traditional tune noted down by Sir George Macfarren.

For other tunes set to the same or similar words, see the Journal of the Folk-Song Society, Songs of the West, Traditional Tunes (Kidson), English County Songs, Ancient Irish Music, etc.

The tune printed in the text, with its octave in the penultimate phrase, is a good example of rather a common type of English folk-air.

No. 18. The Sprig of Thyme.

ALTHOUGH this and the preceding song probably spring from the same root, it is, I think, quite possible to distinguish them, both tunes and words. "The Sprig of Thyme" is, I imagine, the older of the two. Its tune is usually modal, very sad and intense, and somewhat rugged and forceful in character; while its words are abstract and reflective, and sometimes obscure. On the other hand, the words of "The Seeds of Love," although symbolical, are quite clear in their meaning; they are more modern in their diction, and are usually sung to a bright, flowing melody, generally in the major mode. For other versions with words, see the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume ii., p. 288); Folk-Songs from Dorset (p. 10); and Songs of the West (No. 7, 2d ed.).

The words in the text are those that the singer sang me, supplemented from those of other sets in my collection. I used the tune, which is in the Æolian mode, for the "Still music" in Mr. Granville Barker's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream (Act iv., Sc. 1).

No. 19. The Cuckoo.

FOR other versions with tunes, see Folk-Songs from Dorset (No. 11); Butterworth's Folk-Songs from Sussex (No. 6); A Garland of Country Song (No. 1); and Barrett's English Folk-Song (No. 42).

I have taken down fifteen different versions of this song, but the tune given in the text is the only one that is modal (Æolian). This particular tune is usually associated with the words of "High Germany." Halliwell, in his *Nursery Rhymes* (p. 99), prints a couple of verses in dialect, as follows:

> The cuckoo's a vine bird, A zengs as a vlies; A brengs us good tidin's, And tells us no lies. A zucks th' smael birds' eggs, To make his voice clear; And the mwore a cries " cuckoo !" The zummer draws near.

The words in the text are similar to those given in a Glasgow Garland, "The Sailor's Return."

No. 20. Blackbirds and Thrushes.

ALTHOUGH I have collected five variants of this song, I do not know of any published version of it. I have had to amend some of the lines that were corrupt.

No. 21. The Drowned Lover.

For other versions with tunes, see *Traditional Tunes* (p. 112); *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume iii., p. 258); and *Songs of the*

West (No. 32, 2d ed.). In a note to the latter, Mr. Baring-Gould states that the earliest copy of the words is in the Roxburghe Ballads, under the heading " Captain Digby's Farewell"; and that the song afterward came to be applied-at any rate, in the West of England-to the death of the Earl of Sandwich after the action in Sole Bay in 1673. Mr. Baring-Gould suggests that "Stokes Bay," in the version given in the text, is a corruption of "Sole Bay." In both the other versions above cited, and in another one which I have published (Folk-Songs from Various Counties, No. 8), the scene is laid in the North of England, the lovers being buried in Robin Hood's Churchyard.

The air is in the Dorian mode. The words are almost exactly as they were sung to me.

No. 22. The Sign of the Bonny Blue Bell.

THE subject of the ballad is clearly related to "I'm going to be married on Sunday," in Dr. Joyce's Ancient Irish Music (No. 17); while the first three lines of the initial stanza are identical with the corresponding lines of another song in the same volume (No. 72). The words are printed on a broadside by Williamson, Newcastle (circa 1850), and two short verses are given by Halliwell in his Nursery Rhymes (p. 94).

A country-dance air, which, however, has nothing in common with the tune in the text, is printed by Walsh (1708), and in *The Dancing Master* (volume ii., ed. 1719), under the heading "I mun be marry'd a Tuesday."

The tune in the text is in the Æolian mode.

No. 23. O Waly, Waly.

I HAVE collected five variants of this song. The words are so closely allied to the wellknown Scottish ballad, "Waly, Waly, up the bank" (Orpheus Caledonius), that I have published them under the same title. A close variant is to be found in Songs of the West (No. 86, 2d ed.) under the heading "A Ship came Sailing." Mr. Baring-Gould, in a note to the latter, points out that the third stanza is in "The Distressed Virgin," a ballad by Martin Parker, printed by J. Coles, 1646-74.

The traditional "Waly, Waly" is part of a long ballad, "Lord Jamie Douglas," printed in the appendix to Motherwell's *Minstrelsy*. Its origin seems obscure. The tune is given in Rimbault's *Musical Illustrations of Percy's Reliques* (p. 102); in Chambers's *Scottish Songs prior to Burns* (p. 280); and elsewhere.

No. 24. Green Bushes.

OTHER versions with tunes may be seen in the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume v., p. 177); Songs of the West (No. 43, 2d ed.); English County Songs (p. 170); and Traditional Tunes (p. 47). Two stanzas of this song were sung in Buckstone's play, "The Green Bushes" (1845), and, owing to the popularity which this achieved, the complete song was shortly afterward published as a "popular Irish ballad sung by Mrs. Fitzwilliam." There are several Irish variants of this tune in the Petrie Collection (Nos. 222, 223, 368, 603, etc.). Miss Broadwood and Miss Gilchrist, in notes appended to the version published in the Journal of the Folk-Song Society, consider that the words have been affected by those of a "Dialogue in imitation of Mr. H. Purcell-Between a Town Spark and a Country Lass," 1740. It is difficult to say whether this be so or not, but the phraseology of some of the lines in the text-which are also on broadsides, by Disley and Suchshows distinct signs of "editing." Mr. Baring-Gould pronounces the words as "substantially old," "the softening down of an earlier ballad which has its analogue in Scotland," and I suspect that this is the true explanation.

No. 25. Bedlam.

FOR other versions with words, see the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume i., p. 146; volume ii., pp. 37, 93, and 292; volume iii., pp. 111 and 290); *English County* Songs (p. 71); and Songs of the West (No. 92).

For words only, see Garrett's Newcastle Garlands (volumes i. and ii.) and Logan's A Pedlar's Pack of Ballads and Songs (pp. 172-189).

"Mad songs" are great favourites with English folk singers, and I have collected several examples. The tune in the text is frankly a harmonic melody, chiefly remarkable for its very beautiful final phrase.

No. 26. Farewell, Nancy.

VERSIONS with tunes are given in the *Journal* of the Folk-Song Society (volume i., p. 130; volume ii., pp. 99 and 298); and in Joyce's Ancient Irish Music, No. 93).

See also "William and Nancy's parting," in Garret's *Newcastle Garlands* (volume ii.).

The tune, a remarkably fine one, is in the Æolian mode, and was sung to me by a woman, seventy-four years of age.

No. 27. The Rambling Sailor.

For other versions with tunes, see the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume iii., p. 108; volume v., p. 61); and *Songs of the West* (No. 87, 2nd ed.). The tune, like the one in the text, is nearly always in the Mixolydian mode, and usually in hornpipe rhythm. The words on the older broadsides were always about a soldier, not a sailor, but on more modern stall copies, the latter is given the preference. The singer could remember only the first two verses; the third has been "lifted" from the broadside.

No. 28. Dabbling in the Dew.

Тніs is a very popular song all over England, and I have taken down a large number of variants. The traditional words, which vary but little, are very free and unconventional. I have therefore taken some of the lines in the text from Halliwell's *Nursery Rhymes* (p. 35). In some versions, it is "strawberry leaves" that "make the milkmaids fair " which I have been told, though I have not been able to verify it, is the version given in *Mother Goose's Melodies for Children* (Boston, ed. 1719).

The tune is in the Æolian mode.

For other versions with words, see the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume iv., pp. 282-285); Songs of the Four Nations (p. 58); English Folk-Songs for Schools (No. 23); and Butterworth's Folk-Songs from Sussex (No. 9).

No. 29. The Saucy Sailor.

OTHER versions with tunes are published in the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume v., pp. 343-345); Tozer's *Sailors' Songs* (No. 39); Barrett's *English Folk-Songs* (No. 32); *Songs of the West* (No. 21); and *English Folk-Songs for Schools* (No. 37).

Dr. Barrett, in a footnote, says that the song was a great favourite with factory girls in the East End of London, where, I am told, it is still to be heard.

That printed in English Folk-Songs for Schools is undoubtedly the normal form of the tune, which is always in the major, or Mixolydian, mode. The mode in which the air given in the text is cast is the Æolian with a sharpened third, the only instance of this irregular scale that I have ever come across—probably the unconscious invention of the singer who gave me the song. The tune is a variant of the air traditionally associated with "Chevy Chase" (see Northumbrian Minstrelsy, p. 3, and Traditional Tunes, p. 19). Chappell mates the tune to "The Children in the Wood," but states that it was known to be one of the " Chevy Chase " airs.

No. 30. Fanny Blair.

THE words that I took down from the singer of this song were very corrupt and almost unintelligible. I have therefore

substituted lines taken from a Catnach broadside in my possession.

The tune is a very curious one. The singer varied both the seventh and third notes of the scale, sometimes singing them major and sometimes minor in a most capricious manner, so that I can only give the tune in the form in which he most frequently sang it. In English Folk-Song : Some Conclusions (pp. 71, 72) I have expressed the opinion that in my experience English folk-singers very rarely vary the notes of the mode, except, of course, in Mixolydian-Dorian tunes. Mr. Percy Grainger's researches in Lincolnshire, however (Journal of the Folk-Song Society, volume iii., pp. 147-242), appear to show that this feeling for the pure diatonic scale is not shared by the folk-singers of that county.

No. 31. Arise, arise.

I HAVE taken down four variants of this ballad in England, and eighteen in America *(English Folk-Songs from the Southern Appalachians)*, but I do not know of any published form of it. The tune is partly Mixolydian. The words have not been altered, although I have made use of all the sets that I have collected.

No. 32. Searching for Lambs.

So far as I know, this has not been published elsewhere. The tune is modal, but lacking the sixth of the scale, it may be either Æolian or Dorian—I have harmonized it in the latter mode. The words are almost exactly as they were sung to me. Taking words and tune together, I consider this to be a very perfect example of a folksong.

No. 33. Green Broom.

For other versions with words, see *Pills* to *Purge Melancholy* (volume vi., p. 100, ed. 1720); Songs of the West (No. 10); Northumbrian Minstrelsy (p. 98); and English County Songs (p. 88). The words are on broadsides by Such, Pratt, and others, and also in Gammer Gurton's Garland.

No. 34. The Bonny Lighter-Boy.

I HAVE not heard any one sing this song except the man who gave me this version. Nor do I know of any published form of it. The tune is in the Æolian mode. The words in the text, except for four lines in the first verse which the singer could not remember, are as they were sung to me.

No. 35. The Sweet Priméroses.

THIS is one of the most common of English folk-songs. The words are on broadsides by Barraclough of Nuneaton and others. Variants of the tune are given in Barrett's *English Folk-Songs* (No. 46), and in the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume i., p. 21). In the version of the tune given here the rhythm is quite regular, differing in that particular from all other forms of the air that I know. Barrett, in a footnote, states: "This song is usually sung without any attempt to emphasise the rhythm."

The words have been compiled from those supplied to me by several singers.

No. 36. My Bonny, Bonny Boy.

THE earliest form of the ballad is, perhaps, that which was printed in the reign of Charles II. under several titles, "Cupid's Trappan," "The Twitcher," "Bonny, bonny Bird," etc. (Chappell's Popular Music of the Olden Time, p. 555). For other versions with tunes, see the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume i., pp. 17 and 274; volume ii., p. 82; volume iii., p.85); Songs of the West (No. 106, 2nd ed.); English County Songs (p. 146); Folk-Songs from Various Counties (No. 9). The words are also in the Roxburghe Collection and printed in black-letter by I. Coles and by W. Thackeray (17th century). Mr. Baring-Gould claims that "bird," not "boy," is the proper reading, and points out that it is so given in the oldest printed version. But Miss Broadwood suggests that an old balladtitle "My bonny Burd" (or young girl) may have led to the allegorical use of the bird in later forms of the ballad.

The version given in the text was recovered in London. It was necessary to make one or two slight alterations in the words. The tune, which is in the Æolian mode, contains a passage, only rarely heard in folk-song, in which several notes are sung to a single syllable (see *English Folk-Song*: Some Conclusions, p. 109).

No. 37 a and b. As I walked through the meadows.

For other versions, see the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume ii., pp. 10-12; volume v., p. 94). A few verbal alterations have been made in the words. The first tune is in the major mode and the second in the Mixolydian with, in one passage, a sharpened seventh.

No. 38. Sweet Kitty.

THE tune, which is in the Dorian mode, was used in Mr. Granville Barker's production of Hardy's "Dynasts," being set to the words, "My Love's gone a-fighting." The words, which are related to those of "Brimbledon Fair" (volume ii., No. 23), have been compiled from several versions that I have collected.

No. 39. The True Lover's Farewell.

For other versions with tunes of this ballad and of "The Turtle Dove," with which it is closely allied, see the *fournal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume ii., p. 55; volume iii., p. 86; volume iv., p. 286).

The song is clearly one of several peasant songs of the same type upon which Burns modelled his "A red, red rose" (see note to the song in *The Centenary Burns* by Henley and Henderson). The old Scottish tune is printed in Johnson's *Museum* under the heading "Queen Mary's Lament." The variants of this very beautiful song that have been recently recovered in the southern counties of England prove beyond doubt that this was the source from which Burns borrowed nearly all his lines. Henderson, indeed, states that a broadside containing one of the versions of this song was known to have been in Burns's possession. Two of the traditional stanzas are included in an American burlesque song, dating from about the middle of the last century, called "My Mary Anne" (see the *fournal of the Folk-Song Society*, volume iii., p. 89; volume iv., p. 288). Three stanzas in the text are similar to corresponding lines in a garland entitled "The True Lover's Farewell," the second of "Five excellent New Songs, printed in the year 1792." The words have been compiled from several traditional sets that I have collected.

The tune is in the Dorian mode.

No. 40. High Germany.

THERE are two ballads of this name. The words of one of them, that given here, may be found on a broadside by Such and in *A Collection of Choice Garlands, circa* 1780. The second is printed on a Catnach broadside, and is entitled "The True Lovers: or the King's command must be obeyed," although it is popularly known as "High Germany." For versions of both of these, see the *Journal* of the Folk-Song Society (volume ii., p. 25; *Journal of the Irish Folk-Song Society* (Part I., p. 10); and Folk-Songs from Dorset (No. 6).

The words have been compiled from different versions. The tune is in the Æolian mode.

No. 41. Death and the Lady.

For other versions with tunes, see Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume i., p. 169; volume ii., p. 137); Songs of the West (No. 99, 2nd ed.); English Traditional Songs and Carols (p. 40); and Chappell's Popular Music of the Olden Time (pp. 164-168).

Chappell points out that this is "one of a series of popular ballads which had their rise from the celebrated *Dance of Death*," and he quotes a very long "Dialogue betwixt an Exciseman and Death " from a copy in the Bagford Collection, dated 1659 (also given in Bell's Songs of the Peasantry of England). There is a tune in Henry Carey's Musical Century (volume i., p. 53), set to one of the recitatives in "A New Year's Ode." This is headed "The Melody stolen from an old ballad called Death and the Lady." It is this tune which Chappell prints to the words of "Death and the Lady," from A Guide to Heaven (1736). The words of this last version are on a broadside by Evans which I am fortunate enough to possess. It is ornamented with a curious old woodcut of a skeleton holding a scythe and an hour-glass.

No. 42. My Boy Willie.

A YORKSHIRE version of the words is given by Halliwell in his *Popular Rhymes* (p. 328); and a Scottish variant in Herd's *Scottish Songs* (volume ii., p. 1). See also Baring-Gould's *A Book of Nursery Songs and Rhymes* (No. 24).

The song, I imagine, is a comic derivative, or burlesque, of "Lord Rendal."

No. 43. Whistle, Daughter, Whistle.

I HAVE taken down two variants of this song, and Joyce prints an Irish version under the heading "Cheer up, cheer up, Daughter," in his *Ancient Irish Music* (No. 26).

The words given me by the singer were a little too free and unconventional to be published without emendation, but the necessary alterations have, nevertheless, been very few and unimportant. The tune is in the Æolian mode.

No. 44. Mowing the Barley.

For other versions, see Wiltshire Folk-Songs and Carols (Rev. G. Hill); Butterworth's Folk-Songs from Sussex (No. 4); and Folk-Songs from Various Counties (No. 4).

No. 45. I'm Scventeen come Sunday.

THIS ballad, with words re-written by Burns, is in *The Scots Musical Museum* (ed. 1792, No. 397). The tune there given, which is different from ours, is a traditional one, and was recorded by Burns himself from a singer in Nithsdale. Other versions are printed in the *Journal of the Folk-Song Society* (volume i., p. 92; volume ii., pp. 9 and 269); Songs of the West (No. 73, 2nd ed.); and Ford's Vagabond Songs and Ballads (p. 99).

The words, which are on broadsides by Bebbington (Manchester) and Such, have not been altered. The tune is in the Dorian mode.

No. 46. The Lark in the Morn.

For other versions with tunes, see Folk-Songs from the Eastern Counties (No. 6); A Garland of Country Song (No. 27); Traditional Tunes (p. 145); and the Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume ii., p. 272).

No. 47. Hares on the Mountains.

THIS is a very popular song in the West of England, but it has not, I believe, been found elsewhere. Similar words are in Sam Lover's *Rory O'More* (p. 101), which Mr. Hermann Löhr has set to music. There is also a tune in the *Petrie Collection* (No. 821), called "If all the young maidens be blackbirds and thrushes," in the same metre as the lines in *Rory O'More*. Probably the song is of folkorigin and was known to Sam Lover, who placed it in the mouth of one of the characters in his novel, adding himself, presumably, the last stanza.

No. 48. O Sally, my dear.

THIS, of course, is clearly allied to the preceding song. I have collected only two other versions of it. The words of the first three stanzas had, of necessity, to be somewhat altered. The tune is in the Æolian mode.

No. 49. Gently, Johnny, my Jungalo.

I HAVE taken down only one other variant of this. The words were rather coarse, but I have, I think, managed to re-write the first and third lines of each verse without sacrificing the character of the original song. The singer told me he learned it from his father. I have no doubt but that it is a genuine folk-song. The tune is partly Mixolydian.

No. 50. William Taylor.

For other versions with tunes, see The Journal of the Folk-Song Society (volume i., p. 254; volume iii., pp. 214-220); and Folk-Songs from Somerset (No. 118). No tune is better known to the English folk-singer than this. It is usually in the major or, as in the present case, in the Mixolydian mode, but occasionally (see the versions cited above) in the Dorian or Æolian. A burlesque version of the words, with an illustration by George Cruickshank, is given in the Universal Songster (volume i., p. 6). "Billy Taylor" became a very popular street-song during the first half of the last century, and I suspect that it was during that period that the last stanza in the text was added.

ENGLISH FOLK SONGS

I HENRY MARTIN.



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-tin, The young_est of all ____ the three; _____ That he should turn -tin, That thing___ it nev - er could be; _____ For Ι am turn'd For ful - ly went two hours or three,____ Till Hen - ry Mar cresc. Ĺ rob-ber all the salt on sea, _____ salt sea, ___ salt sea, For to main rob - ber all the salt sea, _____ salt to main on sea, ____ salt For sea, - tin gave to her the death - shot, the death - shot, the death shot, And _____ > F: 8: NIN す・ ₹ sail-ing but a his two bro-thers and he. 3. He had not been . tain bro-thers and 6. Come low-er your - tain my two top-sail and me. _____ straight to the bot - tom went she. 9. Bad news, bad news____to 800 non legato mf **a**. Ā long win-ter's night And a part short win-ter's of Be а day, _ brail up your mizzn bring your ship lee, _____ Or And un - der my old Eng-land came, Bad news ___ to fair Lon-don Town,_ There's Θ non legato





II BRUTON TOWN.



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II BRUTON TOWN.



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III

THE KNIGHT AND THE SHEPHERD'S DAUGHTER.



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She rode till she came to the river's side, She fell on her belly and swam; And when she came to the other side She took to her heels and ran.

6

She ran till she came to the king's fair court, She pull-ed at the ring: There was none so ready as the king himself To let this fair maid in.

7

Good morning to you, my pretty maid. Good morning sir, said she; You have a knight all in your court This day has a-robbed me.

8

O has he robbed you of your gold, Or any of your fee? Or has he robbed you of the rarest branch That grows in your body?

9

He has not robbed me of my gold, Nor any of my fee; But he has robbed me of the rarest branch That grows in my body.

10

Here's twenty pounds for you, he said, All wrap-ped in a glove; And twenty pounds for you, he said, To seek some other love. 11

I will not have your twenty pounds, Nor any of your fee; But I will have the king's fair knight This day to marry me.

12

The king called up his merry men all, By one, by two, by three; Young William once the foremost was, But now behind came he.

13

Accurs-ed be that very hour That I got drunk by wine. To have the farmer's daughter here To be a true love of mine!

14

If I a farmer's daughter am Pray leave me all alone; If you make me a lady of a thousand lands I can make thee lord of ten.

15

The dog shall eat the flour you sowed, And thou shall eat the bran; I'll make thee rue the day and hour That ever thou wast born.

16

He mounted on his milk-white steed, And she on her pony grey; He threw the bugle round his neck And together they rode away.

17

The very next town that they came to The wedding bells did ring; And the very next church that they came to There was a gay wedding. IV ROBIN HOOD AND THE TANNER.











V THE WRAGGLE TAGGLE GIPSIES, 0!



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VI LORD BATEMAN.



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D

sail - ed East, he edWest,He sail-ed_un - to sail proud Tur-key. There youlands? 0 have you liv - ings?And does Nor-thumb'r-land be-long to thee? have What sev-enlongyears we'll a vow, For sev'n long years we'll make keep it strong; If___ when she came to Lord Bate-man's cas - tle How bold - ly__ she did ring the bell. Who's 7 he was ta-ken and put in ___ pris - on, Un - til his life was_ quite wea-ry. **3**. And pris - on she'll set you free? 6. Yes, will you give to a fair young la - dy, If out of you will wed with no oth - er_ wo - man, Then I will wed with no oth - er man. 9. She there?Who's there? cried the young proud por - ter, Who's there? Who's there? Comequick-ly tell. 12. O, in this pris'n there grew____ a tree, It grew so stout, it grew so strong He was and I've got liv - ings, And half Northumb'r-land belongs to me; I'11 I've got lands took him to fa-ther's har - bour, She gave to him ship of fame: Fare her a is this called Lord Bate-man's cas - tle? And is his lord - ship here with-in? 0____



13.

You tell him to send me a slice of bread, And a bottle of the best of wine; And not forgetting that fair young lady That did release him when close confined.

14.

Away, away went the young proud porter, Away, away, away went he, Until he came to Lord Bateman's chamber, Down on his bended knees fell he.

15.

What news, what news, my young proud porter? What news, what news hast thou brought to me? There is the fairest of all young ladies That ever my two eyes did see.

16.

She has got rings round every finger; Round one of them she has got three. She has gold enough all round her middle To buy Northumb'rland that belongs to thee.

17.

She tells you to send her a slice of bread, And a bottle of the best of wine; And not forgetting that fair young lady That did release you when close confined.

18.

Lord Bateman then in a passion flew; He broke his sword in splinters three; Half will I give of my father's portion If but Sophia will have a-crossed the sea.

19.

O then up spoke the young bride's mother Who was never heard to speak so free: You'll not forget my only daughter If but Sophia have a-crossed the sea.

20.

I own 1 made a bride of your daughter; She's neither the better nor worse for me. She came to me on a horse and saddle; She may go back in a coach and three.

21.

Lord Bateman prepared another marriage, And both their hearts were full of glee. I will range no more to a foreign country Now since Sophia have a-crossed the sea. VII BARBARA ELLEN.







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9.

As she was walking up the groves And met his corpse a-coming: Stay, stay, said she, and stop awhile, That I may gaze all on you.

10.

The more she gazed, the more she smiled, Till she burst out a-laughing; And her parents cried out: Fie, for shame, Hard hearted Barb'ra Ellen. 11.

21

Come, mother, come, make up my bed, Make it both long and narrow; My true love died for me yesterday, I'll die for him to-morrow.

12.

And he was buried in Edmondstone, And she was buried in Cold Harbour; And out of him sprang roses red, And out of her sweet-brier.

13.

It grew and grew so very high Till it could grow no higher; And around the top growed a true lover's knot And around it twined sweet-brier. VIII LITTLE SIR HUGH.



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IX GEORDIE.







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X LADY MAISRY.



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he came to the old cas - tell, He heard a big bell toll; And when ru-by lips, Nine times he kissed her he kissed her chin. Ten times red D Ó θ saw eight pall. 8. Lay then he no-ble, no-ble men, Α_ bear-ing of _____a times he kissed her snow-y, snow-y breast, Where love did en - ter in. 10. The $\mathbf{0}$ e Ð down, lay down gen-tle, gen-tle corpse, As it lay fast that a - sleep, That la - dy was bur-ied on that Sun - day, Be - fore the prayer was done; And the 9 C 0 4 O Second time First time I may kiss her red ru-by lipsWhich I used to kiss so sweet. 9. Six lord he died on the next Sun - day Be - fore the prayer be -- gun. -Z 0 77 Ŧ F 7.

XI THE OUTLANDISH KNIGHT.



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10.

Lie there, lie there, you false-hearted man, Lie there instead of me; For six pretty maidens hast thou a-drowned here, The seventh hath drownéd thee.

11.

She mounted on her milk-white steed, And led the dapple-grey; She rode till she came to her father's house, Three hours before it was day.

12.

The parrot hung in the window so high, And heard what the lady did say: What ails thee, what ails thee, my pretty lady, You've tarried so long away?

13.

31

The king he was up in his bed-room so high, And heard what the parrot did say: What ails thee, what ails thee, my pretty Polly, You prattle so long before day?

14.

It's no laughing matter, the parrot did say, That loudly I call unto thee; For the cat has a-got in the window so high, I fear that she will have me.

15.

Well turned, well turned, my pretty Polly; Well turned, well turned for me; Thy cage shall be made of the glittering gold, And the door of the best ivory.

XII THE COASTS OF HIGH BARBARY.



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XIII THE CRUEL MOTHER.



XIV THE GOLDEN VANITY.



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XV LORD THOMAS OF WINESBERRY.





XVI THE GREEN WEDDING.



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When he came to the wedding-hall, they unto him did say: You are welcome, Sir, you're welcome Sir, where have you spent the day? He laughed at them, he scorned at them, and unto them did say: You may have seen my merry men come riding by this way. To my rally, dally, dido,

Rally, dally, day.

7

The Squire he took a glass of wine and filled it to the brim: Here is health unto the man, said he, the man they call the groom; Here's health unto the man, said he, who may enjoy his bride – Though another man may love her too, and take her from his side.

To my rally, dally, dido,

Rally, dally, day.

8

Then up and spoke the farmer's son, an angry man was he: If it is to fight that you come here, 'tis I'm the man for thee! It's not to fight that I am here, but friendship for to show; So let me kiss your bonny bride, and away from thee I'll go. To my rally, dally, dido, Rally, dally, day.

He took her by the waist so small, and by the grass-green sleeve, And he led her from the wedding-hall, of no one asking leave. The band did play, the bugles sound, most glorious to be seen, And all the way to Headingbourne Town went the company dressed in green. To my rally, dally, dido,

Rally, dally, day.

XVII THE SEEDS OF LOVE.







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7. Come once had the heart of mine. all you false young Do not men, 77 m**f** to com leave me here plain:_ For the grass that has oft-en-times been time, tram-pled un-der foot, Give it it will rise Give it up a - gain, f cresc. up a - gain. it will rise time, せ rall.e dim. colla voce

XVIII THE SPRIG OF THYME.







XIX THE CUCKOO.











BLACKBIRDS AND THRUSHES.





XXI THE DROWNED LOVER.



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XXII THE SIGN OF THE BONNY BLUE BELL.



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XXIII O WALY, WALY.



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J

XXIV GREEN BUSHES.



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XXV BEDLAM.





XXVI FAREWELL, NANCY.



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XXVII THE RAMBLING SAILOR.







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XXVIII DABBLING IN THE DEW.



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XXIX THE SAUCY SAILOR.





XXX FANNY BLAIR.





XXXI ARISE, ARISE.





O father, father, pay down my fortune — It's fifty thousand bright pounds, you know— And I will cross the briny ocean, Go where the stormy winds do blow.

8

O daughter, you may ease your own mind, It's for your sweet sake that I say so; If you do cross the briny ocean, Without your fortune you must go. 9

O daughter, daughter, I'll confine you; All in your private room alone; And you shall live on bread and water, Brought once a day and that at noon.

10

I do not want your bread and water, Nor anything that you may have; If I can't have my heart's desire, Then single I'll go to my grave. XXXII SEARCHING FOR LAMBS.





XXXIII GREEN BROOM.





THE BONNY LIGHTER-BOY.



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THE SWEET PRIMEROSES.



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XXXVI MY BONNY, BONNY BOY.









XXXVIIA AS I WALKED THROUGH THE MEADOWS.

(FIRST VERSION.)







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XXXVII[®] AS I WALKED THROUGH THE MEADOWS.

(SECOND VERSION.)







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XXXVIII SWEET KITTY.



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XXXIX THE TRUE LOVER'S FAREWELL.



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XL HIGH GERMANY.







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XLI DEATH AND THE LADY.



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XLII MY BOY WILLIE.



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XLIII WHISTLE, DAUGHTER, WHISTLE.



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cresc.



5. Whistle, daughter, whistle, And you shall have a man. (Whistles) or {I cannot whistle, mother, You see how well I can. You nasty, impudent jade, What makes you whistle now? O, I'd rather whistle for a man Than either sheep or cow.

6. You nasty, impudent jade, I'll pull your courage down; Take off your silks and satins, Put on your working-gown. I'll send you to the fields A-tossing of the hay, With your fork and rake the hay to make, And then hear what you say.

7. Mother, don't be so cruel To send me to the field, Where young men will entice me And to them I may yield. For, mother, it's quite well known I am not too young grown, And it is a pity a maid so pretty As I should live alone.

XLIV MOWING THE BARLEY.







O keep your gold and silver too, And take it where you're going;
For there's many a rogue and scamp like you, Has brought young girls to ruin.
Where are you going to, etc. 6

Then the Lawyer told her a story bold, As together they were going, Till she quite forgot the barley field, And left her father a-mowing. Where are you going to, *etc*.

7

And now she is the Lawyer's wife, And dearly the Lawyer loves her, They live in a happy content of life; And well in the station above her. Where are you going to, *etc*.

XLV I'M SEVENTEEN COME SUNDAY.



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P



XLVI THE LARK IN THE MORN.



XLVII HARES ON THE MOUNTAINS.









XLVIII O SALLY, MY DEAR.



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XLIX GENTLY, JOHNNY, MY JINGALO.





WILLIAM TAYLOR.





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