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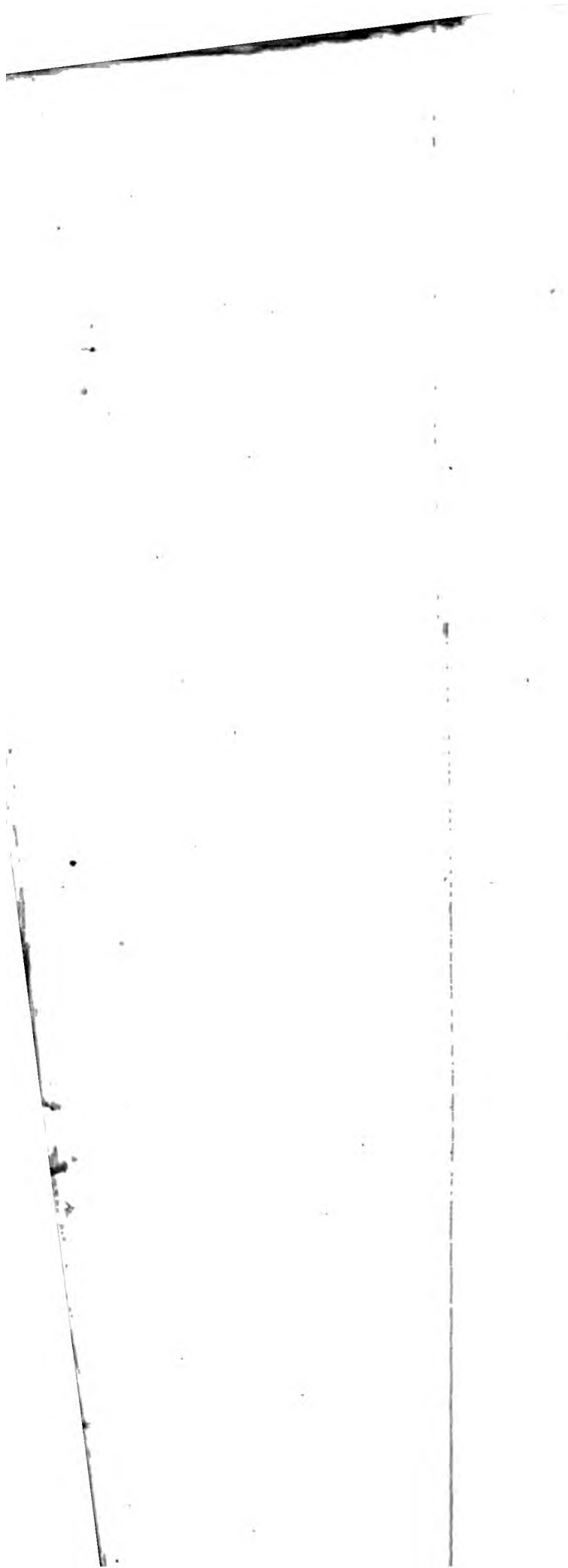


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*John Marten Cripps.*

280 d. 414





**Poetical Vagaries;**

**BY**

**GEORGE COLMAN, THE YOUNGER.**



# Poetical Vagaries;

CONTAINING

AN ODE TO *WE*, A HACKNEY'D CRITICK;  
LOW AMBITION, OR THE LIFE AND DEATH OF MR. DAW;  
A RECKONING WITH TIME;  
THE LADY OF THE WRECK, OR CASTLE BLARNEYGIG;  
TWO PARSONS, OR THE TALE OF A SHIRT.

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BY

GEORGE COLMAN, THE YOUNGER.

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# Poetical Vagaries.

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AN ODE

TO

WE;

A HACKNEY'D CRITICK.

---

"NOTHING, if not *Critical*."

SHAKSPEARE.

I.

HAIL, Plural Unit! who would'st be  
A Junto o'er my Muse and me,  
With dogmas to control us;  
Hail, mystick WE! grand Next-to-None!  
Large Body Corporate of One!  
Important *OMNES, Solus!*

B

## II.

First Person Singular! pray, why  
Impregnate, thus, the Pronoun I?  
Of madness what a tissue!  
To write as if, with passion wild,  
Thou oft hadst got thyself with child,  
And thou wert Self and Issue!

## III.

Thy Voice, which counterfeits, alone,  
A score of voices in it's own,  
Awhile takes in the Many;  
Thus a bad One Pound Note is past  
For Twenty Shillings,—and, at last,  
Turns out not worth a penny.

## IV.

'Tis well for Thee no laws of thine  
Can crush vile Followers of the Nine;

Thou *live'st* upon the sinners ;  
And if all Poets left off writing,  
Through thy anonymous inditing,  
Why thou must leave off dinners :

## V.

For *Thou* couldst ne'er turn Poet, sure,  
Laurels, or luncheons, to procure ;  
Witness thy present calling ;  
Else why not write thyself a name  
So very humble, e'en, in fame,  
As mine which thou art mauling ?

## VI.

Yet, hold,—thou may'st, on Pindus' heights,  
Have far outsoar'd my lowly flights—  
No,—that's a thought I'll smother :  
The meanest Bard, among the mean,  
*Can* he, thus, sculk behind a screen,  
And try to stab a brother ?

## VII.

But come,—one moment, leave thy pen  
 Stuck in thy gall-bottle,—and, then,  
     Smooth o'er thy forehead's furrow :  
 Let's chat :—Where got'st thou thy employ ?  
 Art thou of Dublin City, joy ?  
     Or bonny Edinborough ?

## VIII.

Or, art John Bull, in garret cramm'd ?  
 “ Spirit of health, or goblin damn'd ? ”  
     Be *something* for thy credit :  
 Perhaps, thou'rt he who (as they say)  
 Cut up the last successful Play,  
     And never saw nor read it.

## IX.

Be what thou wilt ;—when all is done,  
 To me thou'rt (like Thyself) *All One* :

Thou'rt welcome, still, to flog on;  
For, till one addled egg's a brood,  
Or twenty WEs a multitude,  
My Muse and I will jog on.

## X.

Now, should'st thou *praise* me, after all!  
Though that, indeed, were comical,  
What honour could I pin to't?  
If Porridge were my only cheer,  
Thy Praise or Blame must both appear  
Two tasteless chips thrown into't.

## XI.

Then, WE, shake hands, and part!—no breach,  
No *difference*, twixt us, I beseech!  
Although our *business varies* :  
Thine is Detraction, mine is Jest ;  
Which occupation, pray, is best,—  
Thy Spite, or my *Vagaries* ?

## LOW AMBITION;

OR,

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF MR. DAW.

*Præcordia ludit.*

PERS.

*Claims the Belly Part.*

MOORE'S ALMANACK.

MALEBRANCHE, and Lock, and such grave fellows,  
 Who were abstracted reasoners, tell us  
 Much that relates to MAN :—when you have read  
 All these Philosophers have said,  
 You'll give them credit for their perspicacity ;—  
 And, after that, (if you should have a head  
 Of no great ontological capacity)  
 You'll know as much,  
 About the matter, as I know of Dutch :

For, when a metaphysick chain  
Once gets *entangled* in your brain,  
The more you rattle it, the more you rave,  
And curse, and swear, and misbehave,—  
Coming to no conclusion ;  
And, if, at last, you lose the smallest link,  
You may as well go whistle as go think  
Of mending the confusion.

Then, leaving Spiritual Truths to those  
Who, taking pleasure in the study,  
O'er Thoughts on Human Understanding doze,  
Till human understanding grows quite muddy;—

One proposition, only, I advance,  
(It will not lead Philosophy a dance)  
Respecting *Man* ;—*videlicet*,  
I never met with any, yet,  
However thick his pericranium's density,—  
Let it be thicker than a post,—  
Who has not some astonishing propensity,  
Of which he makes a pother, and a boast.



He'll either tell you he can drink, or smoke,  
 Or play at Whist,—or on the pipe and tabor,—  
 Or cut a throat, a caper, or a joke,  
 Much better than his neighbour.

Many will say, they'll settle you the Nation;  
 And make a Peace,—solid, and good,—  
 (I wish they would!)  
 Sooner than the Administration.

One tells you how a Town is to be taken;  
 A second o'er the Fair Sex boasts his power;  
 Another brags he'll eat six pounds of bacon,  
 For half a crown, in half an hour.

Thus Nature always brings, in Fortune's spite,  
 Man's "*ruling passion*," as Pope says, to light.

And I maintain that all these *Ruling Passions*,  
 Divide them how you will, and subdivide,—  
 I care not how they're ramified,  
 Into their different forms and fashions,—  
 I say they all proceed from Pride;

And this same Pride is founded on Ambition;  
Shades varying, with talents, and condition.

Look at that Rope-Dancer;—observe!  
Gods! how he vaults!—'tis all to get a name;  
Risking his limbs, and straining every nerve,  
To jump himself, poor devil! into Fame.

Mark with what majesty he wields the pole,  
While the Buffoon (his vassal) chinks his sole!

Sir, 'tis his poor Ambition's richest hope  
To reign elastick Emperor, and Lord,  
O'er all who ever caper'd on a cord,  
And be the Buonaparte of the rope.

In short, an itching for renown  
Makes some dance ropes, and others storm a Town;—  
And an observer must be very dull  
If a Jack-Pudding, or a Pierrot,  
Don't, sometimes, seem to him as great a Hero  
As a Grand Signior, or a Great Mogul.

That lowly men aspire to lowly glory  
Here followeth (*exempli gratiâ*) a Story.

---

GODDESS! whose frolick humour glads the Sky ;  
Who, oft, with dimpled cheek, to Momus listen ;  
Within the lustre of whose lucid eye  
Laughter's gay drops, like dew in sunshine, glisten!

Come, sweet EUPHROSYNE! luxuriant MIRTH!  
Leave all the Heathen Deities behind,  
Descend, and help, ('twill be but kind)  
One of the poorest Poets upon earth!

O! now descend! while I devote my page  
To one who flourish'd on a London Stage.

She comes!—I sing the Man ycleped Daw,  
Whose Mother dress'd the Tragick Queens ;  
She in the Candle-Snuffer raised a flame ;  
Then quench'd it, like a liberal Dame ;

And the first light my Hero ever saw  
 Was that his Father snuff'd behind the Scenes.

Born to the *Boards*, as Actors say, this Wight  
 Was, oft, let out, at half a crown *per* night,  
 By *tender* parents, after he was wean'd ;  
 At three years old, squab, chubby-cheek'd, and stupid,  
 Sometimes, he was a little *extra* Fiend,  
 Sometimes, a supernumerary Cupid.

When Master Daw full fourteen years had told,  
 He grew, as it is term'd, *hobbedyhoy-ish* ;  
 For Cupidons, and Fairies, much too old,  
 For Calibans, and Devils, much too boyish.

This state, grave Fathers say, behind the Scenes,  
 Often embarrasses their Ways and Means :  
 And Master Daw was out of size,  
 For raising the Supplies :—  
 He was a perfect lout,—a log ;—  
 You never clapt your eyes  
 Upon an uglier dog !

His voice had broken to a gruffish squeak ;  
He had grown blear-eyed, baker-kneed, and gummy ;  
And, though he had'nt been too hoarse to speak,  
He was too ugly, even, for a dumby.

But mole-eyed Fortune, Goddess of misprision,  
Soon gave her Bandeau's knot a tighter twist ;  
Or else, that she might have no chance of vision,—  
She, certainly, employ'd an Oculist :

Had she but seen no better than the Fowl  
The chaste Minerva loves,—yclept an Owl,—  
Or had of seeing the least notion,  
She never, never could have found  
In Master Daw, that chubby, stupid hound,  
A subject for theatrical promotion.

But, lo! 'twas at a *Ballet's* night-rehearsal,—  
Perform'd, at last, as Play-Bills often shew,  
Whether the *Ballet* have been hiss'd or no,  
To over-flows, and plaudits universal ;—

The Prompter's Boy, a pickled, thoughtless knave,  
Playing a game at marbles, in the sea,  
Happen'd to break his leg upon a wave,  
And Master Daw was made his Deputy.

The Office of a Prompter's Boy, perchance,  
May not be generally known :  
I'll sketch it :—Would I could enhance  
The outline with some touches of my own !

The Prompter's boy, *Messieurs !* must stand  
Near the Stage-Door, close at the Prompter's hand ;  
Holding a Nomenclature that's numerical,  
Which tallies with the Book *prompterical* :

And as the Prompter calls, " One, Two, Three, Four,"  
Mark'd, accurately, in the Prompt-Book page,  
These numbers mean the Boy must leave the Door,  
To call the folks refer'd to, for the Stage.

In this capacity, as record saith,  
Young Master Daw  
Both heard and saw

As much (if not as *two*) as any *one* can ;—  
He saw the Actor murdering Macbeth,  
Whom he had only call'd to murder Duncan.

He saw Anne Boleyn, in the Green-Room, grant  
A kiss to Wolsey, dangling at her crupper ;  
Heard an Archbishop damn a Figurante,  
And Shylock order sausages for supper.

During his time (or Master Daw's a liar)  
Three Virgins of the Sun grew wondrous round :  
Pluto most narrowly escaped from fire,  
And Neptune in a water-tub was drown'd.

During his time, from the Proscenium ta'en,  
Thalia and Melpomene both vanish'd ;  
The Lion and the Unicorn remain,—  
Seeming to hint, to a capricious Age,  
“ Suffer the Quadrupeds to keep the Stage,”  
“ The Muses to be banished.”

During his time,—psha ! let me turn Time's glass.  
Reader, old Time (depend on't) will kill Thee ;

But, should I grow prolix, alas!

Thou never would'st kill Time by reading Me.

Yet, here, will I apostrophize thee, Time!

If not in reason, why in Crambo Rhime.

---

## A RECKONING WITH TIME\*.

### I.

COME on, old TIME!—nay, that is stuff;

Gaffer! thou comest on fast enough;—

Wing'd foe to feather'd Cupid!—

---

\* This '*Reckoning with Time*' appear'd three or four years ago, at the request of a friend, in a monthly publication;—whence it was copied into a few works of a similar description:—But, as it was first, purposely, written to be introduced in the present Tale, and has been seen, only, in prints a little more fugitive (*perhaps*) than this Book, the Author trusts he may be excused for inserting it in the place of it's original destination.



But, tell me, Sand-Man ! ere thy grains  
Have multiplied upon my brains,  
So thick to make me stupid ;—

## II.

Tell me, Death's Journeyman !—but, no ;  
Hear thou my speech ;—I will not grow  
Irreverent while I try it ;  
For, though I mock thy Flight, 'tis said,  
The Forelock fills me with such dread,  
I—*never take thee by it.*

## III.

List, then, old Is-Was-and-To-Be !  
I'll state accounts 'twixt Thee and Me ;—  
Thou gavest me, first, the measles ;  
With *teething* wouldst have ta'en me off,  
Then, madest me, with the hooping cough,  
Thinner than fifty weasles.

## IV.

Thou gavest Small-Pox, (the Dragon, now,  
That Jenner combats, on a Cow ;)

And, then, some seeds of knowledge ;—  
Grains of the Grammar, which the flails  
Of Pedants thresh upon our tails,  
To fit us for a College.

## V.

And, when at Christ-Church, 'twas thy sport  
To rack my brains with sloe-juice Port,

And Lectures out of number !—  
There Fresh-man Folly quaffs, and sings,  
While Graduate Dulness clogs thy wings,  
With mathematick lumber.

## VI.

Thy pinions next,—which, while they wave,  
Fan all our Birth-Days to the grave,—

I think ere it was prudent,  
*Balloon'd* me from the Schools to Town,  
Where I was *parachuted* down,  
A dapper, Temple Student.

## VII.

Then much in Dramas did I look ;  
Much slighted Thee, and great Lord Coke ;  
    Congreve beat Blackstone hollow ;  
Shakspeare made all the Statutes stale,  
And, in *my* Crown, no Pleas had Hale,  
    To supersede Apollo.

## VIII.

Ah, Time! those raging heats, I find,  
Were the mere Dog-Star of my mind ;  
    How cool is retrospection !  
Youth's gaudy Summer Solstice o'er,  
Experience yields a mellow store,  
    An Autumn of reflection !

## IX.

Why did I let the God of Song  
Lure me from Law, to join his throng,—  
    Gull'd by some slight applauses?  
What's Verse to A when *versus* B?  
Or what John Bull, a Comedy,  
    To pleading John's Bull's causes?

## X.

Yet, though my childhood felt disease,  
Though my lank purse, unswoln by fees,  
    Some ragged Muse has netted,—  
Still, honest Chronos! tis most true,  
To Thee (and faith to *others*, too!)  
    I'm very much indebted.

## XI.

For thou hast made me gaily tough;  
Inured me to each day that's rough,

In hopes of calm, to-morrow ;—  
 And when, old Mower of us all !  
 Beneath thy sweeping scythe I fall,  
 Some *few* DEAR FRIENDS will sorrow.

## XII.

Then,—though my idle Prose, or Rhime,  
 Should, half an hour, out-live me, Time !  
 Pray bid the Stone-Engravers,  
 Where'er my bones find Church-Yard room,  
 Simply to chisel on my tomb,—  
 “ Thank 'TIME for all his Favours !”

---

Managers, Actors, Candle-Snuffers,—all,—  
 Yea, all who write, or damn, or clap a Play,  
 E'en little Prompters' Boys, who Players call,  
 (Sad truth to tell !) grow older every day.

Now had the sure Fore-runner of our Fate,  
 (Time, whom I have apostrophized,)

Who rubs no Russian oil upon his pate,  
Scorning a wig, or a transparent *tête*,  
Or any cure for baldness advertised ;—  
Time had besprinkled, with some years,  
My Hero's asinine and vulgar ears.

Daw, now adult, and turn'd of five-and-thirty,  
Conceived himself miraculously clever :—  
His skin was like a Dun Cow's hide, grown dirty,  
And his legs knit in bandiness, for ever.

Coxcombical, malicious, busy, pert,  
Brisk as a flea; and ignorant as dirt,  
When he began one of his frothy chatters,  
Boasting about his knowledge of Stage matters,  
He look'd so very, very sage,  
You could not, for your soul, talk gravely to him ;  
He seem'd an *Oran Outang*, come of age,  
Connived at for a man, by those who knew him.

Many strange faces may be seen ;—but Daw's  
Look'd like the Knocker of a Door,—whose grin

Has let it's handle tumble from the jaws,  
 To hinder you from rapping on it's chin.  
 Three single ladies, and one married,  
 By looking at him, all miscarried.

No longer Prompter's Boy, he now had gain'd  
 A rank upon the Stage almost *unique* ;  
 A rank of which I am about to speak ;—  
 Which, with great dignity, he long maintain'd.

“ Daw on the Stage ! too ugly as a lad !”  
 “ And now so frightful, when to manhood grown,  
 “ That Ugliness had ‘ mark'd him for her own,’  
 “ Sure the Proprietors were all gone mad !”

Reader ! it ill becometh me  
 To say how mad Proprietors may be ;—  
 But, every night,  
 To crowded audiences, did Mr. Daw  
 Give Boxes, Pit, and Galleries delight,  
 Acting with great *eclat*.

And though he acted so repeatedly,  
 (Of which he often talk'd conceitedly)  
 Although no Actor, in his line, excell'd him,—  
 Yet, in the personation of his part,  
 (The fact, I know, will make you start,)  
 Not one of his Encomiasts beheld him.

When the Enigma is expounded,  
 You'll own 'tis true, and be dumfounded.

Well was the adage to my Hero known  
 That Beauty merely is skin deep ;  
 But, thinking Ugliness is some skins deeper,  
 He very politickly tried to creep  
 Into *another* skin beside his own;—  
 Wherein conceal'd,  
 His face and figure could'nt be reveal'd,  
 And soon he proved a most successful creeper.

Being a persevering rogue,  
 Through interest, and strong solicitation,  
 Before *live* cattle came in vogue,  
 He got, at last, his wish'd-for situation :—



And, when *sham* Beasts came on, it was his pride  
To tell,—he always acted the *Inside*.

Thus Daw “ with Fortune almost out of suits,”  
Unfit to shew himself, or utter words,  
Wriggled into the Parts of all the Brutes,  
And all the larger Birds.

He was the stateliest Ostrich seen, for struts,  
Unrivall'd in the bowels of a Boar,  
Great, and majestick, in a Lion's guts,  
And a fine Tiger, both for walk and roar.

A noted Connoisseur was heard to swear,  
(From minor merits far from a detractor)  
There was no bearing any outside Bear,  
If Mr. Daw were not the inside Actor.

Sometimes, a failure his great name would tarnish ;—  
Once, acting in a Dragon, newly painted,  
The ceruse, turpentine, and varnish,  
Gave him the cholick,—and the Dragon *fainted*.

Once, too, when drunk in Cerberus,—oh ! shame !  
 He fell asleep within the Dog's internals ;—  
 Thus, Mr. Whitbread's Porter overcame  
 The Porter to the King of the Infernals.

But in Dumb Follies, that succeed the Play,  
 His reputation rose so fast,  
 That he was call'd, *par excellence*, at last,  
 The great *Intestine Roscius* of his day.

Yet frequently it has been shewn,  
 And History hath often stated,  
 A Hero meets in his career a check ;  
 Sometimes in battle he is overthrown,  
 Sometimes he is assassinated,  
 And, sometimes, he's suspended by the neck.—  
 Sundry the ways, when Fortune's scurvy,  
 In which a Hero is turn'd topsy-turvy.

Christmas was coming on ;—those merry times,  
 When, in conformity to ancient rules,  
 Grand classick Theatres give Pantomimes,  
 For the delight of Innocents, and Fools :—

That is, (if I may make so bold)  
For Children who are young,—and Children who are old.

A pasteboard Elephant, of monstrous size,  
Was form'd to bless a Learned Nation's eyes,  
And charm the sage Theatrical resorters ;  
And, as two men were necessary in it,  
It was decreed, in an unlucky minute,  
That Mr. Daw should fill the hinder quarters.

The *HINDER Quarters!!!*—here was degradation !  
Gods ! mighty Daw !—what was thy indignation !

He swore a tragick oath ;—“ by Her who bore him !”  
(Meaning the Dresser of the Tragick Queens)  
“ No individual, behind the scenes,”  
“ Should walk in any Elephant *before* him.”

“ He'd rather live on husks,”  
“ Or dine upon his nails,”  
“ Than quit First Parts, under the trunks, and tusks,”  
“ And stoop to Second Rates, beneath the tails !”

“ ’Twas due to his celebrity, at least,”  
 “ If he should so far condescend”  
 “ To represent the *moiety* of a beast,”  
 “ That he should have the right to chuse *which end.*”

The Managers were on the Stage ;  
 To whom he, thus, remonstrated, in rage.

“ I’ve been chief Lion, and first Tiger, here,”  
 “ For fifteen year ;—”  
 “ *That*, you may tell me, matters not a souse ;  
 “ But, what is more,”  
 “ All London says, I am the greatest Boar”  
 You ever had, in all your House.

“ Of all *Insides*, the Town likes me the best ;  
 “ Over my head no Underling shall jump :—  
 “ I’ll play your front legs, shoulders, neck, and breast,  
 “ But damn me if I act your loins and rump !”

Though this Address was coarser than jack-towels,  
 Although the speaker’s face made men abhor him,

Yet, when a man acts nothing else but bowels,  
The Managers might have some bowels for him ;

And if obdurate Managers *could* feel  
A little more than flint or steel,—  
If they had any heart,  
On hearing such a forcible appeal,  
They might have let the man reject the part.

All the head Manager said to it,  
Was, simply, this,—“ Daw, you must do it.”

And, after all, the Manager was right ;  
But how to make the fact appear  
Incontrovertible, and clear,  
And place it in it's proper light,—  
Puzzles me quite !

Come, let me try.—Reader, twould make you sweat,  
(You'll pardon the expression)  
To see two fellows get,  
With due discretion,—

One upright, one aslant,—  
 Into the entrails of an Elephant :

For, if you'll have the goodness to reflect  
 On the construction of these huge brute creatures,  
 You'll see the man in front must walk erect ;  
     While he who goes behind must bend,  
 Stooping, and bringing down his features,  
     Over the front man's latter end :—  
 And the Beast's shape requires, particularly,  
 The tallest man to march first, perpendicularly.

Now, the new inside man, you'll find,  
     Was taller by a head than Daw ;  
 Therefore 'twas fit that Daw should walk behind,  
     According both to Equity and Law.

Daw, for a time, with jealousy was rack'd,  
     And with his rival wouldn't act ;  
     Nevertheless,  
 Like other Politicians in the Nation,  
     Who can't have all their wishes,

He chose, at last, to *coalesce*,  
Rather than lose his situation,  
And give up all the loaves, and fishes.

The House was cramm'd :—the Elephant appear'd ;  
With three times three, the Elephant was cheer'd ;  
Shouts, and Huzzas the ear confound !  
The Building rings ; the Building rocks ;  
The Elephant the Pit, the Elephant each Box,  
The Elephant the Galleries resound !

The Elephant walk'd down,  
Before the lamps, to fascinate the Town.

Daw, with his ugly face inclined  
Just over his tall rival's skirts,  
Bore, horizontally, in mind  
His Self-Love's bruises, and Ambition's hurts.

Hating the man by whom he was disgraced,  
Who from his cap had pluck'd the choicest feather,

He bit him in the part where Honour's placed,  
Till his teeth met together.

On this attack from the ferocious Daw,  
Upon his *Pais Bas*,  
The Man, unable to conceal his pain,  
Roar'd and writhed,  
Roar'd and writhed,  
Roar'd and writhed, and roar'd again!

That Beasts should roar is neither new, nor queer,  
But, on a repetition of the spite,  
How was the House electrified to hear  
The Elephant say,—“ Curse you, Daw, don't bite!”

Daw persevered:—unable to get out,  
The Tall Man faced about,  
And with great force the mighty Daw assail'd;—  
Both, in the dark, were, now, at random, fighting,  
Huffing, and cuffing, kicking, scratching, biting,—  
Though neither of the Combatants prevail'd.



It was the strongest precedent, by far,  
In ancient, or in modern story,  
Of such a desperate *intestine war*,  
Waged in so small a territory!

And, in this Civil Brawl, like any other,  
Where every Man in Arms his Country shatters,  
The two inhabitants thump'd one another,  
Till they had torn the Elephant to tatters;—  
And, thus uncased, the Rival Actors  
Stood bowing to their generous Benefactors.

Uproar ensued!—from every side,  
Scene-shifters ran to gather up the hide;  
While the Two Bowels, in dismay,  
Hiss'd, hooted, damn'd, and pelted,—walk'd away.

---

Reader, if you would, further, know,  
The History of Mr. Daw, 'tis brief;—

He died, not many months ago,  
Of mortified AMBITION, and of grief:—  
For when *Live* Quadrupeds usurp'd the Stage,  
And which are, now, (but may'nt be long) the *rage*,  
He went to bed,  
And never, afterwards, held up his head.  
Awhile, he languish'd, looking pale and wan;  
Then, dying, said,—“ Daw's occupation's gone!”



**THE LADY OF THE WRECK;**

**OR,**

***CASTLE BLARNEYGIG:***

**A POEM.**



TO

THE AUTHOR

OF

**THE LADY OF THE LAKE,**

*WHOSE GIFTED MUSE*

NEEDS NO MERETRICIOUS COLOURINGS UPON HER BEAUTY;

*WHOSE CHARMS*

MIGHT DISDAIN A VEIL OF OBSOLETENESS, TO OBSCURE THEM;

THE FOLLOWING POEM,

OF

**THE LADY OF THE WRECK,**

OR

*CASTLE BLARNEYGIG,*

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED,

BY

HIS ADMIRER.



## SEMENT.

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

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**LET** not the Reader, whose senses have been delightfully intoxicated by that Scottish *Circe*, the *Lady of the Lake*, accuse the present Author of plagiary. The wild Irish, and wild Caledonians, bore a great resemblance to each other, in very many particulars;—and two Poets, who have any “method in their madness,” may, naturally, fall into similar strains of wildness, when handling subjects equally wild, and remote.—’Tis a wild World, my masters!—The Author of this Work, has, merely, adopted the Style which a northern GENIUS has, of late, render’d the Fashion, and the *Rage*:—He has attempted, in this instance, to become a Maker of the *Modern-Antique*; a Vender of a new Coinage, begrimed with the ancient *æruugo*;—a Constructor of *the dear pretty Sublime*, and

*sweet little Grand*;—a Writer of a Short Epick Poem, stuff'd with Romantick Knick-knackeries; and interlarded with Songs, and Ballads, *à la mode de Chevy Chace, Edom o Gordon, Sir Lancelot du Lake, &c. &c.* How is such a Writer to be class'd?

*“ Inter quos referendus erit? veteresne Poetas?”*

*“ An quos et præsens et postera respuet ætas?”*

HOR. EPIST. 1. LIB. 2.

# THE LADY OF THE WRECK;

OR

## CASTLE BLARNEYGIG.

——— “quædam nimis antiquè—pleraque dura.—HOR.

“Thus have I (my dear countrymen) with incredible pains and diligence, discover'd the hidden sources of the BATHOS, or, as I may say, broke open the abysses of this GREAT DEEP.”

MART. SCRIB. πρὸς ΒΑΘΟΥΣ.

### CANTO FIRST.

HARP of the PATS \*! that rotting long hast lain  
On the soft bosom of St. Allen's bog,  
And, *when the Wind had fits* †, wouldst twang a strain,  
Till envious mud did all thy musick clog,

---

\* “If it be allow'd that the Harp was in use among the ancient Caledonians, it can hardly be denied that they borrow'd it from the Irish.”—*Walker's Historical Memoirs of Irish Bards.*

† The same idea occurs in the beautiful opening of the *Lady of the Lake*;—where it is said that the Scotch Harp hung

“On the witch-elm that shades St. Fillan's Spring;”

and “*flung* it's numbers” down the “*fitful breeze.*”—Indeed, the whole of the present Invocation to the Irish Harp is a tolerably close, though humble, imitation of the commencement of the Poem above mention'd.

E'en just as too much pudding chokes a dog;—  
 Oh! Paddy's Harp! still sleeps thine accent's pride?  
 Will nobody be giving it a jog?  
 Still must thou silent be, as when espied  
 Upon an Irish, old, old halfpenny's back side?

Not thus, when Erin wore a wilder shape,  
 Thy Voice was speechless in an Irish Town;  
 It roused the hopeless Lover to a rape,  
 Made timorous Tenants knock proud Landlords down;  
 Whisky, at every pause, the feast did crown;—  
 Now, by the powers! the fun was never slack;  
 The *O*s and *Macs* were frisky as the Clown;  
 For, still, the burthen (growing now a hack)  
 Was Hubbaboo, dear joys! and Didderoo! and Whack!

Och! wake again! arrah, get up once more!  
 And let me venture just to take a thrum:—  
 Wake, and be damn'd! you've had a tightish snore!—  
 Perhaps, I'd better let you lie there, dumb:  
 Yet, if one Ballad-Monger like my strain,  
 Though I've a clumsy finger and a thumb,

I shan't have jingled Minstrelsy in vain ;—  
So, Wizard, be alive ! old Witch, get up again !

## I.

The Pig, at eve, was lank and faint,  
Where Patrick is the Patron Saint,  
And with his peasant Lord, unfed,  
Went, grunting, to their common bed :  
But when black Night her sables threw  
Athwart the slough of Ballyloo\*,  
The deep-mouth'd thunder's angry roar  
Rebellow'd on the Ulster shore,  
And hailstones pelted, mighty big,  
The towers of Castle Blarneygig.

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\* In the latest Chorography of Ireland, *Ballyloo* is not to be found in the Maps. Various other places, mention'd in this Poem, are, also, totally, omitted.—But, even the discoveries of *Captain Lemuel Gulliver*, so long ago as the time of Queen Anne, are look'd for in vain, except in the Charts which are bound up in his own publication.—Shameful negligence !

## II.

Aloft, where, erst, tyrannick Fear  
 Placed lynx-eyed Vigilance to peer\*,  
 And listen, in the dunnest dark,  
 Whether a feudal cur should bark,  
 Drunk, deaf, and purblind, in the din,  
 Dozed the old Warder, Rory Flinn.  
 Before the antique Hall's turf fire,  
 Was stretch'd the Porter, Con Macguire,  
 Who, at stout Usquebagh's command,  
 Snored with his proker † in his hand.  
 Kathlane, who very ill could dish  
 Wild Ballyshannon's springy fish,  
 And Sheelah, who had lately come  
 To spider-brush, from Blunderdrum,

---

\* *i. e.* The *Watch-Tower*;—in which a man was, formerly, station'd to give notice of danger, real, or apprehended, from the approach of any party, or parties, whatever.—No vestige of this personage's office remains, in the rural abodes of our modern Nobility. In, and around, the Metropolis, and in great provincial Towns, and their suburbs, *Warders*, still, exist:—but they are situated on the ground; on the outside of Mansions, which they pretend, and are not supposed, to guard; in small *Wooden-Boxes*, just capable of containing them,—wherein they doze, as conveniently as their predecessor *Rory Flinn*, in this Poem recorded.

† *Hibernicè*, proker; *Anglicè*, poker.

Were dreaming, in a stol'n embrace,  
With Roger Moyle, and Redmond Scrace ;  
And all the Vassals' senses lay  
Drown'd in the Whisky of the day.—  
Still raged the storm ;—still, records run,  
All slept in Blarneygig, save one,  
Lord of the Castle, and Domain,  
Sir Tooleywhagg O'Shaughnashane\*.

## III.

He heard, or thought he heard, a sound  
Pierce through the hurly-burly round ;  
A shriek,—a yell,—he knew not what,—  
So from his night-couch up he got ;

---

\* After a certain period, Irishmen adopted *Surnames*, for the convenience of designation ; and to prevent that *confusion* from which they have, to this day, kept so *proverbially clear*.—Hence, arose the '*Os* and '*Macs*,'—meaning the '*Sons of*.'—The *O'Tooles* were, formerly, of high celebrity in Ireland, in times of convulsion, and insurrection ;—Military of course ;—even the Clergy fought.—*Ware* informs us (referring to a piece of Biography, publish'd by *Purius*,) that "*Laurence O'Tool* had an Archbishoprick." It was a Dublin one. From the surname of the Knight of Blarneygig Castle, it is probable that the families of the *O'Tooles* and *O'Shaughnashanes* were allied, by inter-marriages.



Then through a peep-hole popt his head,  
 And thus Sir Tooleywhagg he said ;  
 Standing the while, though something loth,  
 In a short shirt of Irish cloth.

## IV.

“ Spake out,” he cried, “ whose voice is that,”  
 “ Shrill as a Tom Balruddery Cat \* ?”  
 “ Come you a Fairy, good or ill,”  
 “ My Bullocks to presarve or kill ?”  
 “ Or only, does a Banshee † prow!”  
 “ For somebody’s departing sowl ?”—  
 “ Haply you lurk, from Foemen nigh,”  
 “ My sea-side Castle’s strength to spy,”

---

\* “ *Balruddery Cat.*”—The squall of a *Balruddery Cat* is very annoying to those whose organs of hearing are unaccustom’d to it:—and equally so is the squall of any Cat, in any other place;—which may somewhat tend to diminish the peculiarity of the Cats of Balruddery.

† “ *A Banshee.*”—a friendly Spirit, that gave a strong hint of an approaching Death, in an Irish Family.—There has been, it seems, a similar supernatural retainer in Scotland;—denominated, by my great North-British Prototype in Poetry, a *Ben-Shie*:—the last syllable, possibly, from the French *chier*.

“ Who, on the morrow, may think fit”  
 “ To bother Blarneygig a bit :”  
 “ Och! if the latter,—soon as light”  
 “ Peeps over Murroughlaughlin’s height,”  
 “ My Kernes and Gallowglasses \*, here,”  
 “ Will shew you sport, with sparthe †, and spear;”  
 “ And, sallying on my spalpeen Foe,”  
 “ Shout—Forroch! Forroch ‡! Bugg-abo §.”

## V.

Scarce had he said, when lightning play’d  
 Full on the features of a Maid,

---

\* “ The Irish of the middle ages had two sorts of Foot-Men, some call’d *Galloglasses*, arm’d, &c. &c.—Others lighter arm’d, call’d *Turbiculi*, by some *Timburii*, but, commonly, *Kerns*.”—*Ware’s Antiq. and Hist. of Ireland*.

† A *Sparthe* was an Irish weapon of war.

‡ *Forroch, Farah, or Ferragh*.—“ When they (*the Irish*) approach’d the Enemy so near as to be heard, they used this martial Cry—*Farah! Farah!*”—*Ware’s Antiq. and Hist. of Ireland*.

“ The vulgar Irish suppose this War-song to have been *Forroch, or Ferragh*.”—*Spencer’s State of Ireland*.

§ *Bugg-abo*.—They, likewise, call upon their Captain’s name, or the word of their Ancestors:—as under O’Neale they cry *Lundarg-abo!* &c. &c.—*Spencer*.

In short, *Abo* was a term of exultation, tantamount to ‘ *for ever!*’ tack’d to, and shouted with, the principal part of the Estate which their Chieftain possess’d.—It is to be supposed, therefore, that a great part of Sir Tooleywhagg O’Shaughnashane’s territory was *BUGG*.

Who, in the elemental shock,  
Stuck, like a limpet, to the rock.  
Rear'd o'er the surface of the flood,  
Her pallid cheek, her lip's life-blood,  
The blended colours seem'd to shew  
Of pearl, and coral, from below.  
Save that her dank dishevell'd hair  
Half hid her breast, her breast was bare ;—  
What *could* be seen look'd firm, and white,  
As the rude rock she held so tight :  
Bare too was all her beauteous form,  
Stript by the unrelenting storm !  
But, half in sea, and half on shore,  
A liquid petticoat she wore ;  
And, as the undulating surge  
Did, to and fro, it's fury urge,  
Just now and then, it left the tips  
Exposed of two round polish'd hips ;  
All downward else, her blush to save,  
Lay cover'd by the wanton wave :—  
But, oh ! her voice, from out the main,  
Seem'd sweeter than a Syren's strain ;

And, while below the cliff she clung,  
Thus to Sir Tooleywhagg she sung.

VI.

**Song.**

“ What linen so fine has the Bride put on ?”  
“ What torch is her chamber bright’ning ?”  
“ The Bride is adrift, in a salt-water shift,”  
“ And her candles are flashes of lightning.”

“ O! Thady Rann! the Isle of Man \*”  
“ I left, and sail’d for you ;”  
“ I am very ill luck’d all night to be duck’d,”  
“ For keeping my promise true!”

“ O! Thady, your Bride cannot sleep by your side,”  
“ Go to bed to another lady ;”—

---

\* “ O Alice Brand, my native land”  
I left for love of you.”

*See the admirable Poem of the Lady of the Lake.*

“ I must lie in the dark, with a whale, or a shark,”  
 “ Instead of my darling Thady.”

## VII.

She pause'd ;—for to the rock rush'd in  
 A booming wave, above her chin ;—  
 Which, haply, work'd her body's good,  
 For wholesome flows the briny flood,  
 And, if the mouth a pint have caught,  
 A fine aperient 'tis thought.

Sir Tooleywhagg, who heard the pause\*,  
 Was little conscious of the cause,  
 For, now, pitch-dark was all the shore,  
 And much he wish'd for an *encore*.  
 Soon did she duck'd, recovering Fair,  
 In varied strains, renew her air ;—  
 Renew'd it, much in hopes to gain  
 Sir Tooleywhagg O'Shaughnashane :  
 For, when he first put out his head,  
 Graced with a night-cap, died in red,

---

\* The power of *hearing a pause* is a gift peculiar to the natives of Ireland.

Fire, that fore-runs the thunder-clap,  
Blazed on him, redder than his cap.  
’Twas then she mark’d his face, and mien,  
Plain, through his peep-hole, to be seen ;  
His eagle eye’s commanding glance,  
His shoulders’ broad, superb, expanse,  
His strong, uncover’d, ample chest,  
That look’d like so much brawn undrest :  
All that, in days of Chivalry,  
Fair Ladies wish’d their Knights to be!—  
She mark’d—and murmur’d, sighing deep,  
While through his hole he crouch’d to creep,  
“ If, stooping, with such charms he’s deckt,”  
“ Gods ! what a man when he’s erect !”  
“ Yea, on a modest maiden’s word,”  
“ This, this must be the Castle’s Lord.”

## VIII.

Well, too, she mark’d, with anxious eyes,  
A Bucket of capacious size,  
Suspended o’er the craggy beach,  
And close within the Chieftain’s reach ;

With many a roll of cord, to be  
 Let down, at pleasure, to the sea ;—  
 Which for the Castle's use was made,  
 Whene'er it suffer'd a blockade ;  
 To draw up succours from the strand,  
 When the besieger press'd, on land :—  
 And, thus, her plaint she warbled strong,  
 In all the euphony of song :

### Song continued.

“ Chieftain ! if thou canst at all”  
 “ For a shipwreck'd Lady angle,”  
 “ Clew me up thy Castle wall,”  
 “ Near thee doth a Bucket dangle.”

“ Chieftain ! leave me not to drown ;”  
 “ Save a Maid without a smicket !”  
 “ If the Bucket come not down,”  
 “ Soon shall I be doom'd to kick it \*.”

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\* This proves that the modern *slang* phrase of *kicking the bucket*, *i. e.* to *die*, is borrow'd from our ancestors. *Multa renascentur, &c.*

“ Quick, oh! quick unwind the rope!”  
 “ If thou answer’st to my hope,”  
 “ Then, on Thee when Fate is frowning,”  
 “ May a Rope prevent thy drowning!”

## IX.

Ye Sons of Erin! well ’tis known  
 Your nature to the Sex is prone.  
 South from Lough Swilly to ’Tramore,  
 From Kilcock to Knockealy’s shore\*,  
 Can ye resist, throughout your Isle,  
 A Woman’s tear,—a Woman’s smile?—  
 And when did Beauty pour in vain  
 Her plaint to an O’Shaughnashane?  
 When did a Maid, without a rag,  
 Fail to affect a Tooleywhagg?  
 Harsh creek’d the rope in its descent,  
 And wagging down the Bucket went;

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\* These places are selected as cardinal points; being nearly the extremities of the North, East, West, and South, of the Island.

“ *Kilcock* is further from the Sea”  
 Than any of the other three.”—*Anon.*



With fresh provision to be fraught,  
Fresher than ever yet it brought!  
It reach'd the rock :—with eager hope,  
The sea-drench'd Fair One caught the rope ;  
She sprang, the Bucket's mouth to win,  
And, light as gossamer, leapt in !

## X.

Gaily the Chieftain plied his arms,  
Winding his welcome load of charms ;  
At every twist, the dizzied Fair  
Rose, vacillating, in the air.  
He heard her shriek,—soon heard her gasp,—  
Then, caught the trembler in his grasp.  
Quick to the couch his Prize he bore,  
And chafed her shivering limbs all o'er :—  
Strenuous to make the colour seek  
It's wonted course upon her cheek,  
So well he minister'd his aid  
To comfort, and revive the Maid,  
That, ere the Sky-lark plumed his wing,  
The Maid was quite another thing !

## XI.

Now, on the oaks of Faughanvail \*,  
 Dash'd in cold globules by the gale,  
 The pendent thunder-drops of Night  
 Glitter'd, like gems, in orient light.  
 Now vanish'd, from the Chieftain's room,  
 The winking lamp's propitious gloom,  
 And on the Fair One, as she lay,  
 Morn's golden Tell-tale shot his ray.  
 Ah! when did Sun, declining, leave  
 No Swain forsworn, twixt dawn and eve?  
 When did the Day-Spring's glimmer find,  
 Twixt eve and dawn, no Woman's mind  
 Had veer'd, like Dunfanaghy's † wind?  
 Bent, blushing, o'er the Chieftain's neck,  
 Thus spoke the Lady of the Wreck.

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\* This place *may* be found in the Maps.

† This spot is, also, noticed in the Maps of Ireland;—and the wind has been observed to vary there quite as much as in any situation upon a sea-coast.

## XII.

“ Oh ! mighty Chief ! oh ! potent man !”  
 “ Send me not, now, to Thady Rann !”  
 “ What though (when from my native Isle”  
 “ He sail’d, where he had moor’d awhile,)”  
 “ I rashly pledged my maiden truth”  
 “ To follow soon that Ulster Youth,”  
 “ Then left *my* home, *his* home to seek,”  
 “ Near the cascades of moist Belleek \* ;”  
 “ What though he hoped the last night’s tide”  
 “ Would waft into his arms a Bride ;—”  
 “ If, now, such silly bonds I burst,”  
 “ ’Twas he was the Deceiver first ;”  
 “ ’Twas Thady Rann decoy’d, and play’d”  
 “ Upon the greenness of a maid ;”  
 “ Who, by her ancient parents mew’d,”  
 “ Scarce any face but his had view’d,”

---

\* “ Passing, then, through the village of Belleek, I observed a succession of small *Cascades* continued for near two miles.” *Twiss’s Tour in Ireland*.—This Author’s testimony is indisputable.—The Ladies and Gentlemen of Erin may, still, remember how many *cascades* and *rills* he experienced, even after his taking leave of the Island.

“ And gazed, in ignorant surprise,”  
“ On his red locks, and vacant eyes.”—  
“ Sudden my Change!—but, tell me true,”  
“ (For, oh! I feel 'tis wrought by you!)”  
“ Does female Judgment, as 'tis call'd”  
“ By all the wrinkled, and the bald,”  
“ Creep o'er the mind by dull degrees?”  
“ Is Judgment slow in growth as Trees?”  
“ Or comes it not, like lightning's flame,”  
“ Darting direct into our frame?”  
“ Sure 'tis the last ;—and, sure, since night,”  
“ My hour's arrived to judge aright.”  
“ And why, Discernment's heights to climb,”  
“ Must Woman mount the steps of Time?”  
“ Age grasps, with her experienced lore,”  
“ But what young Talent grasps before;”  
“ And no more knows the Matron dunce”  
“ Than Penetration shews, at once.”—  
“ Oh! Chief! since, shipwreck'd on your shore,”  
“ I feel myself Myself no more,”  
“ Since I am, now, another I,”  
“ Here let me ever live,—and die!”

## XIII.

The Hunter, who, upon the sands  
Of Innisfallen's\* islet stands,  
And marks the Stag, from steepy wood,  
Plunge, panting, in Killarney's flood,  
While mountains,—on whose shaggy head,  
Clouds from the vast Atlantick spread,—  
Re-echo to the mellow sounds  
Of merry horns, and opening hounds,—  
The Hunter, then, feels less delight  
Than, now, did Blarneygig's gay Knight.  
“ Darling!” he said, “ when Thady Rann”  
“ Bother'd you, in the Isle of Man,”  
“ You knew not, 'tis exceeding plain,”  
“ Sir Tooleywhagg O'Shaughnashane ;”  
“ Knew not what difference must be”  
“ Twixt that Belleek Spalpeen and me :”  
“ Then let not on your conscience fall”  
“ The smallest qualm, at all, at all.”

---

\* In the lake of Killarney.

“ For your request,—I know not, I,”  
 “ How, while you ever live, you’ll die,”  
 “ Unless you make (the heart o’erfull)”  
 “ What Strangers call an Irish Bull ;”  
 “ If so, then live with me you may,”  
 “ And, living, die the Irish way.”  
 The Castle’s Mistress, now, array’d,  
 The Lady of the Wreck was made :  
 Soon did the deep Cream Crutin \* twang,  
 And, thus, as loud the Chorus rang,  
 The Vassals at the Banquet sang.




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\* “ *Creamthine Crut*, or *Cream Crutin*, by the name imports the Harp (or *Cruit*) used at potations, or carousals ; whence *Cream-nual*, a noisy drunken Company.”—*Vallancey*.

Although the Cream Crutin (or Harp) be extinct, the Cream-nual (or noisy drunken Company) is to be found, without any difficulty of research, in almost every part of the United Empire of Great Britain.

**Banquet Song\*.**

## XIV.

Hail to our Chief! now he's wet through with Whiskey;  
 Long life to the Lady come from the salt seas!  
 Strike up, blind Harpers! skip high to be frisky!  
 For what is so gay as a bag-full of fleas?  
 Crest of O'Shaughnashane!—  
 That's a Potato, plain,—  
 Long may your root every Irishman know!  
 Pats long have stuck to it,  
 Long bid good luck to it;  
 Whack for O'Shaughnashane!—Tooleywhagg, ho!

---

\* Here is to be observed the astonishing similarity of manners, and customs, between the Irish and Scotch, in former days. How close is

“ *Whack for O'Shaughnashane!—Tooleywhagg, ho!* ”

to

“ *Roderigh Vich Alpine Dhu! ho ierhoe!* ”—*See the Lady of the Lake.*

In the present instance, 'tis a *Song at a Banquet*; in the latter, 'tis a *Song in a Boat*.—'Tis, merely, the difference betwixt Wine and Water.—The Vassals, on both occasions, express their attachment to their Chief, and their ardour for his *Crest*;—One being an *Evergreen Pine*, the other a *Potato*.

## XV.

Our's is an esculent lusty and lasting,  
No turnip, nor other weak babe of the ground ;  
Waxy, or mealy, it hinders from fasting,  
Half Erin's inhabitants, all the year round.  
Wants the soil, where 'tis flung,  
Hog's, cow's, or horse's dung,  
Still does the Crest of O'Shaughnashane grow :  
Shout for it, Ulster men,  
Till the bogs quake again !  
Whack for O'Shaughnashane!—Tooleywhagg, ho!

## XVI.

Drink, Paddies, drink to the Lady so shining!  
While flowret shall open, and bog-trotter dig,  
So long may the sweet Rose of Beauty be twining  
Around the Potato of proud Blarneygig!  
While the plant vegetates,  
While Whiskey recreates,



Wash down the root, from the horns that o'erflow ;  
 Shake your shillalahs, boys !  
 Screeching drunk, scream your joys !  
 Whack for O'Shaughnashane !—Tooleywhagg, ho !

## XVII.

Time rolls his course \* ;—now seems in haste,  
 And now seems slow,—as Cooks roll paste ;  
 Rolling out vows from human dust,  
 Soon to be broken,—soon as crust !  
 All, under Time, to ruin falls,  
 Like Blarneygig's now moulder'd walls.  
 The Lover's, and the Dicer's oath,  
 The Patriot's,—falsar, far, than both !—

---

\* The Writer fears that he may, here, be thought to have *stolen* from the admirable Author of the *Lady of the Lake* :—He, only, *borrow*s ;—and not all that the Author had to lend :—for the original runs

“ Time rolls his *ceaseless* course ;”—

and, as every body knows Time to be ceaseless, the present Writer (with all his poverty of expression) felt no occasion to “ *spring a loan*,” for the epithet.—But the Author, above alluded to, has much to spare, and *very* much to give.

As Places, Luck, and Love decay,  
Like fleeting visions, pass away :—  
Nay, e'en thy holy Nuns, Kildare,  
Were doom'd Time's rolling-pin to share!  
In thy chaste glooms, though Vestals swore  
To feed a flame for evermore,—  
No flame unsanctifiedly light,  
But on St. Bridget's altar bright,—  
E'en that,—yes, e'en *perpetual* fire  
(At least in Ireland,) could expire ;  
When England's King, the Pope to rout,  
Both Fire and Nuns, at once, put out \*.  
No wonder, then, when three long years  
Had roll'd their course o'er mortal ears,  
The Lady of the Wreck should mark,  
Since first she swung up in the dark,  
Affection wofully to flag  
In all she prized,—Sir Tooleywhagg.

---

\* *Giraldus Cambrensis* gives an account of this *perpetual fire*. *Henry the Eighth, of England*, extinguish'd it ; and turn'd the Nuns adrift, to go the way of all flesh.

## XVIII.

The grief of slighted love, suppress,  
Scarce dull'd her eye, scarce heaved her breast:—  
Or if a Tear, she strove to check,  
A truant Tear, stole down her neck,  
It seem'd a drop taat, from his bill,  
The Linnet casts, beside a rill,  
Flirting his sweet and tiny shower  
Upon a milk-white April flower:—  
Or if a Sigh, breathed soft, and low,  
Escaped her fragrant lips, e'en so  
The zephyr will, in heat of day,  
Between two rose-leaves fan it's way.  
Not thus the Knight his tedium brook'd,  
Whene'er he from his peep-hole look'd.  
Oft as he look'd, still, high in air,  
He saw the Bucket dangling there;  
Then heaved no sigh,—but gave a groan,  
And grunted loud “Och, Hone! Och, Hone!”  
“Och Hone!” he cried, “my pleasure's cup”  
“Was full that night I wound her up!”

“ How will that night my pleasures crown,”  
“ If e'er it come, I wind her down !”  
Ne'er came that night of joy ; but, oh !  
Soon came a moment full of wo ;  
A moment horror-fraught !—which, oft,  
On the black peak of Klintertoft,  
Beneath whose base the waters howl,  
Is boded by the fatal owl.

## XIX.

Who best, in cattle and domain,  
Could vie with the O'Shaughnashane?  
Who but the Chief of stature tall,  
Baron Fitz Gallyhogmagawl ?  
The Vulture, in his sweeping flight,  
Sail'd leagues and kept his grounds in sight ;  
Nor could the swiftest Roebuck run  
Across his land twixt sun and sun :  
His towers were bosom'd high in wood,  
And at his gate fierce Wolf-Dogs stood.

He had a Daughter passing fair,  
Once buxom, blithe, and debonnair ;  
A year had flown since, first, it chanced,  
With Blarneygig's bold Knight she danced ;  
From that time forth, to bowers she crept,  
There pined in thought, and silent wept.  
Her Father, who, from day to day,  
Observed his daughter's health decay,  
Question'd her close ;—she made a pause—  
Blush'd deep,—then, faltering, own'd the cause ;  
Own'd all that made her spirits flag  
Was thinking on Sir Tooleywhagg.  
“ Cease, Judy !” cried the Baron, “ cease”  
“ To grieve, for much I prize your Peace !”  
A hint, although the point was nice,  
Brought the wish'd Bridegroom, in a trice ;  
For both desire and interest sway'd  
The ready Knight to wed the Maid ;  
And his resolves, in accents cold,  
The Lady of the Wreck he told.

## XX.

She heard,—and pallid grew her cheek,  
Nor did she soon essay to speak.  
Her fiery eyeball shot a gleam  
That scarce from mortal eye could stream ;  
Her ghastly form assumed the cast  
Of withering Spectres, when they blast\*.  
At length, as tight his hand she grasp'd,  
And with a Ring his finger clasp'd,  
A dismal hollow laugh she gave,  
Like sounds that issue from a grave,  
“ Thy Bridal Couch,” she cried, “ bedeck”  
“ Far from the Lady of the Wreck ;”  
“ But, oh, beware !—this Ring, false heart !”  
“ Must never from thy finger part :”

---

\* This word, formerly of awful dignity, is now so vulgarly familiarised that it shocks us, every day, from the mouths of low wretches, when applied to the *eyes* and *limbs* of the human species.—It should not, however, lose its consequence, and force, because it is abused.—Shakspeare introduces it energetically, when talking of the Ghost in Hamlet :—

“ I'll cross it, though it *blast* me !”

“ When off ’tis ta’en”——she could no more,  
But, headlong, to the billows’ roar,  
Sprang from his chamber to the shore.  
The while her fearful leap she took,  
’Tis said, the Giant’s Causeway shook ;—  
Death on the waves to meet her roll’d,  
And wrapp’d her in a watery fold.

}

END OF CANTO FIRST.

# THE LADY OF THE WRECK;

OR

## CASTLE BLARNEYGIG.

### CANTO SECOND.

‘ A Rat, a Rat!—dead, for a ducat!’—*Shakspeare.*

‘ Out, out, brief Candle!’—*Ditto.*

#### I.

“ THE Egg is daintiest when ’tis swallow’d new \*,”  
“ And Love is sweetest in the Honey-moon ;”  
“ The egg grows musty, kept a whole month through,”  
“ And marriage bliss will turn to strife as soon.”

---

\* The *tourneur* of thought, in this Stanza, is, confessedly, indebted to that sweet commencement of the fourth Canto in *the Lady of the Lake* ; where a Bridegroom “ *Stands a wakeful Sentinel,*”—and then *plucks a Rose.* What a happiness ! what an elegant novelty in that idea ! —to make the Bridegroom perform the usual business of the Bride !—to convert the expression of “ *plucking a Rose,*” which has, hitherto, been, figuratively, applied to the mystick garden irrigations of a Lady, into a much more proper matter-of-fact operation of a Gentleman.

“ *The Rose is fairest when ’tis budding new,*” &c. &c.

*See Lady of the Lake.*—4th Canto.



“ O ! butter’d egg ! best eaten with a spoon,”  
 “ I bid your yelk glide down my throat’s red lane \*,”  
 “ Emblem of Love, and Strife, in Wedlock’s boon !”—  
 Thus spake, at breakfast, the O’Shaughnashane,  
 What time his Bride, in bed, napping full late was lain.

## II.

Conceits more fond than this he pour’d †,  
 Conceits with which False Taste is stored ;  
 Such as, of late, alas ! are broach’d  
 By those who have the spot approach’d  
 Where Poesy, once, cradled lay,  
 And stolen her baby-clothes away :—

---

\* Young Norman says to the Rose,—(how pretty to talk to a Rose !)

“ *I bid your blossoms in my bonnet wave.*”

If the weather were quite calm, he, probably, shook his head, with his bonnet on ;—otherwise it may be supposed he had much less chance of being obey’d by the rose, than Sir Tooley-whagg by the egg, who was popping it down his throat with a spoon.

† “ Such fond Conceit, *half said, half sung.*”—*Lady of the Lake.*—4th Canto.

Conceits, in Song's primeval dress,  
 Of, oh ! such pretty prettiness !  
 That the inveigling beldame Muse  
 Seems a sham Virgin from the stews ;  
 Or, in her second childhood wild,  
 The doting Nurse that apes the Child.—  
 With such conceits, such feathery lead \*,  
 Which either may be sung or said,  
 Mock Fancy fill'd the Bridegroom's head ;  
 While the first egg-shell he scoop'd clean,  
 Since he a Married Man had been.  
 'Twas only on the night before  
 That Father Murtoch, of Kilmore,  
 Had join'd him to his all in all,  
 Judy Fitz Gallyhogmagawl.

---

\* “ *O heavy lightness ! serious vanity !*”

“ *Mis-shapen chaos of well-seeming forms !*”

“ *FEATHER OF LEAD, bright smoke !*” &c.

Thus says Shakspeare of Love :—but far be it from the Author of this idle Poem to speak thus, *generally*, of the *Lady of the Lake* !

## III.

Revered by all was Murtoch's worth  
 Though mystery involved his birth\* :  
 For when his Mother, on a mat,  
 Watching a Corpse, at midnight, sat,  
 The Body rose, and strain'd her charms,  
 Almost two minutes, in it's arms.  
 From which embrace, too soon, she found  
 Her face grow long, her waist grow round  
 'Till, Prudes first tattling o'er her fate,  
 Bid Scorn proclaim her in a state

---

† See *Brian*, the Priest. (*Lady of the Lake*, Canto 3d.)—In a Note, relative to this personage, proving that the idea of his origin arose from a traditional story, a curious passage is quoted from *Macfarlane*; who gives an account of one *Gilli-Doir-Magrevollich*. This tooth-breaking name signifies the *Black Child, son to the Bones*.

The Black Child's mama went to a hill, one day, on a party of pleasure, with "both wenches and youthes," to gather the bones of dead men!—and they made a fire on the spot. "At last, they did all remove from the fire, except one maid, or wench:—She being quietlie her alone, without anie other companie, took up her cloaths above her knees, or *thereby*, to warm her; a wind did come, and caste the ashes upon her, and she was conceived of ane man-child."—How much more appropriately than *Æneas* might *Gilli-Doir-Magrevollich* have invoke'd the "*cineres et ossa parentis!*"

Which Women wish to be, 'tis said,  
Who love their Lords, before they're dead.  
Exact at midnight, nine months o'er,  
A little Skeleton she bore.  
Soon as produced, amid the gloom,  
Two glow-worms crept into the room,  
Up to it's skull began to rise,  
The sockets fill'd, and gave it eyes.  
O'er every joint did spiders rove,  
Where busily their webs they wove;  
The Cabin smoke their texture thin  
Soon thicken'd, 'till it form'd a skin,  
" Now it may pass," the Mother cried,  
" May pass for human!"—and she died.

## IV.

This Tale was told by Age and Youth;  
But who can vouch for Rumour's truth?  
And yet, though falsehood quick is hatch'd,  
'Tis certain, when the Corpse she watch'd,

She watch'd alone;—or watch'd, at least,  
With no one save a reverend Priest;  
Whose duty 'twas to see the clay  
Mingled with kindred earth, next day.  
True, he was ruddy, tall, and stout,  
And young,—but then he was devout.  
A rigid, stanch, and upright soul,  
And excellent upon the whole.  
Much could he have divulged, but fled  
From questioning, and shook his head.  
Yet, once, it hapt, when closely task'd,  
With much solemnity he ask'd,  
“ If unbegotten 'tis by me,”  
“ Whose but the Corpse's *can* it be?”  
This Speech, that spread from roof to roof,  
To Irishmen was certain proof:  
Proof that,—when mooted whether Shade  
Or Substance can have forced a Maid,—  
Not he who still Life's course must run,  
But that a Dead Man gets a Son.

## V.

The little Murtoch's early joy  
Was frolick of a Corpse's boy.  
Ne'er by a stick his hoop was whirl'd,  
But with a human thigh-bone twirl'd :  
His leaden lips a laugh exprest  
Whene'er he robb'd a scritch-owl's nest ;  
He scratch'd for worms when showers came,  
And made a boding Raven tame.  
Oft, with a yew-bough in his hand,  
He loved upon a grave to stand,  
(His Father's grave !) and there, by night,  
Arrest the Bat's low-wheeling flight.  
Such, in his youth, was Murtoch known ;  
But, when to skinny manhood grown,  
Church zeal could scarcely fail to fire  
The offspring of a Church-yard Sire.  
His smooth skull, whiten'd by the air,  
Unconscious of disdainful hair,  
In meek and ready baldness stood  
To court the cover of a hood.

Soon in the Cloister's gloom he sunk,  
 Amid the plump, a juiceless Monk ;  
 Renouncing errors, stale or fresh,  
 Of (what he never had) the Flesh ;  
 For, ever, as to prayer he stalk'd,  
 His dry joints rattled as he walk'd.  
 As years revolved, sage Murtoch's name  
 Stood foremost in monastick fame.  
 'Twas thought, whene'er he plodded o'er  
 A volume fraught with pious lore,  
 His glow-worm eyeballs, in the dark,  
 Gave ample light the text to mark.  
 A Relick 'twas his pride to own,  
 A precious wonder, seldom shewn ;—  
 A Sleeve of great Saint Patrick's clothes,  
 Whereon was traced Saint Patrick's Nose,  
 His noble Nose, of gristly strength,  
 And measuring twelve inches' length \*,

---

\* After all, this is no such mighty Nose to brag of. In *Slawkenbergius's* time, Noses, at the Promontory, beat St. Patrick's hollow.

Mark'd when the Saint, to keep it warm,  
Carried his head beneath his arm.

## VI.

But, hark! the Castle's parlour-door  
(Whose hinge no Vassal smear'd, of yore,  
With smooth, subservient, supple oil,  
It's rusty lordliness to spoil)  
Now creaks,—the entrance to proclaim  
Of the last night's new-wedded Dame.  
How look'd the Bride?—they best can tell  
Who Nature mark, and mark her well.  
Movements there are which most reveal  
What most they labour to conceal,  
And, in rebellion to the will,  
Make Bashfulness more bashful still.  
The undetermined, shifting Eye,  
(That sure betrayer of the shy !)  
Which, when another's glance it meets,  
In sidelong sheepishness retreats ;



Striving to note, what scarce it sees,  
 With much uneasiness of ease,  
 Chairs, tables, pictures, clouds, or trees :—  
 The Tongue, that plunges into chat,  
 Flound'ring in haste from this to that,  
 On service forced by nervous Fear,  
 Till Nonsense comes a Volunteer,  
 And proves the seat of the campaign  
 Far distant from the heart or brain ;—  
 And, when the Tongue from fight withdraws,  
 The silly, the distressing Pause!—  
 Such symptoms shew'd,—yea, shew'd them all,  
 Late Miss Fitz Gallyhogmagawl ;  
 Till, while on fancies fancies rush'd,  
 She met her Husband's leer,—and blush'd.

## VII.

Hail, Blush of the new-risen Bride!  
 Promoter of the Husband's pride,  
 The old Maid's envy, young Maid's fear,  
 The Wag's stale wit, the Widow's sneer!

Ye blushing Brides, new-risen, Hail!  
So, in wild Flannagarty's vale,  
Blush the red blossoms, in the morn,  
When newly open'd, by a Thorn.

## VIII.

If strange sensations of the breast  
Rush into Woman's face, confest,  
And there a transient hectick spread,  
Vermillioning Health's softer red,  
How quickly, then, her heart repays  
Man's kind forbearance of his gaze!—  
His mercifully heedless air,  
His careless conversation's care,  
On topicks turn'd to hush alarms,  
In pity to her ruffled charms!—  
How oft her thoughts, that own the cheat,  
Dwell on the delicate deceit,  
Which mark'd her soft suffusions float,  
And, noting, never seem'd to note.

Ideas that evince a mind  
 To character the man refined  
 Did not on the sensorium light  
 Of Blarneygig's puissant Knight.  
 Staring on his embarrass'd Bride,  
 " Lady O'Shaughnashane," he cried,  
 " Arrah, what makes you blush? come here,"  
 " And sit upon my knee, my dear!"

## IX.

Obey'd she?—yes :—for, then, a Spouse  
 (Times alter!) seldom broke her vows ;  
 Nor thought all other vows effaced  
 While marriage-beds were not disgraced :  
 As if Love, Honour, and Obey,  
 (Oaths, now, of form, on Life's high-way)  
 Like paltry passengers were lost  
 In Virtue's terrible hard frost.  
 Much did Sir Tooleywhagg rejoice  
 To see the Lady of his choice

Sitting, while he sat in his cap,  
Obediently upon his lap.  
His satisfaction grew so strong,  
It popp'd out, rampant, in a Song;  
And many a harsh discordant note  
Came, bellowing, through his rusty throat.  
Such through thy caves, Loch-Derg, were sent,  
When wild winds struggled for a vent,  
Which, as their boisterous road they took,  
Saint Patrick's Purgatory \* shook.

---

\* "Of this Cave, strange and incredible things are related. It was demolish'd, as a fictitious thing, on St. Patrick's day, in the year 1497, by authority of Pope Alexander VI, by the *Guardian* of the House of *Minorits of Donegall*, and others, says the Author of the *Ulster Annals*, who then lived. Yet it was, afterwards, restored, and frequently visited by Pilgrims."

*Ware's Antiqu. of Ireland.*

## Song of the Bridegroom.

X.

Don't, now, be after being coy ;  
 Sit still upon my lap, dear joy !  
 And let us, at our breakfast, toy,  
     For thou art Wife to me, Judy \* !  
 And I am bound, by wedlock's chain,  
 Thy humble sarvant to remain,  
 Sir Tooleywhagg O'Shaughnashane,  
     The Husband unto thee, Judy !

---

\* The world has been much be-*Mary'd*, of late, by modern Poets of prettiness :—and we have innumerable sweet little Stanzas of Simplicity, ending with “ *my Mary*,” and “ *my Mary*,” to the end of the Chapter ;—Much after the following manner :—

To-morrow, let it shine or pour,  
 Precisely at the hour of four,  
 Drive me the carriage to the door,  
     My Coachman !  
 For I must dine with Doctor Brown,  
 And to his Villa must go down,—  
 Thou know'st the way to Kentish Town,  
     My Coachman !

Each Vassal, at our Wedding-Feast,  
Blind drunk, last night, as any beast,  
Roar'd till the daylight streak'd the East,  
    Which spoil'd the sleep of thee, Judy!  
Feasts in the Honey-Moon are right ;  
But, that once o'er, my heart's delight !  
Nought shall disturb thee, all the night,  
    Or ever waken me, Judy!

The skins of Wolves,—by me they bled,—  
Are covers to our Marriage-Bed ;  
Should one, in hunting, bite me dead,  
    A Widow thou wilt be, Judy!  
Howl at my Wake! twill be but kind ;  
And, if I leave, as I've design'd,  
Some little Tooleywhaggs behind,  
    They'll sarve to comfort thee, Judy!

## XI.

Touch'd by the pathos of the Song,  
Though every note was rumbled wrong,

Scarce could the sympathetick Bride  
Her conjugal emotions hide.—  
To see her husband's Corse!—and, oh!  
A Wolf to bite him from her so!  
A Wolf!—all Erin's Saints forbid!  
Whose skin was but her coverlid!  
Beneath that softness lurk'd there life  
To make a Widow of a Wife!  
To make her Lord resign his breath!  
To make her see him stiff in death!—  
Ye modern Spouses! never scoff  
At the fond Tear she hurried off;  
But, as she dash'd the tear away,  
She smile'd,—and labour'd to be gay.

## XII.

“What is this Ring,” she said, “Sir Knight,”  
“That on your finger looks so bright;”  
“Outshining the fair Star of Morn?”  
“Some old love-token, I'll be sworn!”

“ I’ll pull it off, dear !”—at the word,  
Thunder, far off, was muttering heard ;  
And Lightning faintly play’d, to own  
It quiver’d for the mystick stone.—  
Then all was hush’d as Death again ;  
Save that a sound swung down the glen,  
As, tolling, on the ear it fell,  
From Bunamargy-Friery bell.  
Dull wax’d the Sun ;—a dusky red  
Through the dense atmosphere was spread ;  
Rooks to their tree-tops caw’d retreat,  
Oppress’d with suffocating heat.

## XIII.

The Chief (confusion mark’d his brow)  
Cried, “ Bathershane ! be asy, now !”  
“ ’Tis but a toy,—a gift to me”  
“ Sent from a dead friend, now at sea.”—  
Here Conscience whisper’d—Many a wave  
Thou Lust’s, thou Avarice’s Slave !  
Is rolling o’er a luckless Fair,  
Driven, by thy falsehood, to despair.



Turn from thy Wife!—thou wilt be found  
 As false to her as her that's drown'd.  
 Turn from thy Wife—thy dalliance check;  
 Cease padling in her ivory neck \*;  
 Think on the Lady of the Wreck!

## XIV.

“ Sent from a friend at sea, who's dead !”  
 The now half-jealous Lady said.  
 “ Would'st into life the lifeless drag ?”—  
 “ Thou banter'st me, my Tooleywhagg !”  
 “ Dead men, who sometimes float, I hear,”  
 “ Transmit no presents home, my dear.”  
 “ Come, come! this toy,—this gewgaw thing,”  
 “ This shewy, baubling, foppish Ring,”  
 “ Befits thy manly finger ill ;”—  
 “ Have it I must, Sir Knight, and will.”  
 Quick from his hand she twitch'd the stone,  
 And, laughing, fix'd it on her own.—

---

\* “ Padling in your neck with his damn'd fingers.”—*Shakspeare.*

That instant, burst a bombard cloud,  
 O'er Blarneygig's high turrets, loud ;  
 And, while it's grand Artillery roar'd,  
 Both sheeted fires and waters pour'd.  
 Earth's huge maternal sides up-born,  
 With horrid labour-throes were torn :—  
 Then, Wicklow, first, thy mountains bold  
 Fear tinged with something much like gold \* ;  
 Moneykillcark's unfathom'd bog  
 Rush'd o'er the vales of Tullyhog ;  
 The Forest shudder'd o'er the Buck ;  
 The shrinking Pond left dry the Duck ;  
 Who, thrown upon her glossy back,  
 Flutter'd, but quaked too much to quack ;  
 The Craven from his dunghil flew,  
 And still'd his Cock-a-doodle-doo †.

---

\* Gold is supposed to have been lately discover'd in the Wicklow Mountains:—but many doubt whether it be really gold, or only *something like it*. Be it the one or the other, it is a sign of *good luck* to the discoverers.

† The *Craven* is the dunghil-cock ; and is used, *adjectively*, by old Authors, as an epithet of cowardice. Individuals, now existing, of a noble family, have reversed the definition of this Epithet ; and attach'd to the name of *Craven* every thing that is spirited, and estimable, in society.

## XV.

Nature, as sea-girt Erin shook,  
Her laws of gravity forsook.  
The Bucket's cordage, crack'd in twain,  
That wound the Lady from the main,—  
The Bucket then, ne'er meant to fly,  
Disdain'd the beach, and sought the sky ;  
The lofty Watch-Tower's roof beat in,  
And crush'd the Warder, Rory Flinn :  
Expiring drunk, he " Whiskey" cried,  
All Water-Buckets damn'd, and died.  
The Sea, that laved the Castle's base,  
Arose, the battlements to face ;  
Fronting the windows, foaming came,  
Where sat the Chieftain with his Dame,  
And, full a minute ere it's fall,  
Spread a broad, waving, watery wall !  
Sudden it sunk :—the orb of Day  
Now struggling with the clouds for sway,  
The awful Tempest roll'd away.

}

Strew'd o'er the chamber, from the strand,  
Lay sea-weed, cockle-shells, and sand ;  
And, in a corner, shivering, sat,  
Wet through with brine, a Water-Rat :  
On the O'Shaughnashane it fix'd  
It's eyes, with anger, sorrow-mixt ;  
Shew'd it's sharp teeth, in doleful spite,  
And knapp'd, and chatter'd, at the Knight.

## XVI.

“ Say, is the Tempest past ?” inquired  
The Dame, who from a swoon respired.  
“ Say is the Tempest—ah! what's that ?”  
“ Save me, Saint Roger! 'tis a Rat !”  
“ What eyes! what teeth! what ears! what hair !”  
“ Look at it's whiskers! what a pair !”  
“ And, oh! Sir Tooleywhagg! see what”  
“ A long, thick, swinging tail 'thas got !”  
“ Destroy it, or I faint again ;”  
“ Throw, throw it back into the main !”

Perk'd on it's dripping haunches stood  
The bristling Reptile of the Flood,  
And utter'd to the Bride a squeak,  
That seem'd almost a human shriek !  
The shrieking Bride, sore, sore dismay'd,  
Almost a rat-like squeak repaid ;  
And hurried from the spot, to yield  
The Rat possession of the Field.

## XVII.

Mused not the Chieftain, when his dear  
Fled the apartment, pale with fear ?  
Mused he not on the mystick Ring ?  
The Storm ? the Rat ?—the everything ?  
Sat he not wrapt in doubt, and wo,  
And tranced in cogitation ?—no.  
The shallow cellules of his head  
Were so pre-occupied with lead,  
That, wanting intellectual space,  
Reflection could not find a place.

But a rich Fool \*, whose stars ordain  
His pate shall be one blank of brain,  
Ne'er long sits motionless alone,—  
He cannot *think* himself to stone ;  
Nor like the wise, or would-be wise,  
Read, write, combine, philosophize ;  
Still, with no labour of the mind,  
Work for his limbs he's sure to find.  
His Body's action whiles away  
His listless life, in tiresome play,  
And helps the cranium of the Ass  
Folly's long holidays to pass.  
Left, by his Lady's sudden flight,  
The busy-bodied, brainless Knight,  
Barren of thought, deprived of chat,  
Threw bread and butter to the Rat.  
The reptile, in a sullen mood,  
It's whiskers twirl'd, and spurn'd the food.

---

\* This is by no means intended to insinuate that a man who is rich must, consequently, be foolish ; but that a fool who is affluent can afford to have no business or study.

## XVIII.

As the lone Angler, patient man!  
 At Mewry-Water, or the Banne\*,  
 Leaves off, against his placid wish,  
 Empaling worms, to torture fish;  
 As dull, at dusk, he plods to rest,  
 Not, even, with a nibble blest,—  
 So from the Rat retired the Knight,  
 Convinced he could not get a bite.  
 When to the Anti-room he came,  
 A Rat again!—the very same!  
 He left it, straight, and sought the stair,  
 The animal sat crouching there.  
 He range'd his grand Apartments through,—  
 The yellow Chamber, green, red, blue,—  
 There was the water-reptile too!  
 Where could he go? where stay? where look?  
 At every turn, in every nook,

---

\* Rivers, in Ulster.

He fear'd the Rat would be espied,  
And all his fears were *ratified*.

## XIX.

Months fled, since the earthquake's shock ;  
Meanwhile, at Allyballyknock,  
Grand feasts were given, in the Hall  
Of Lord Fitz Gallyhogmagawl ;  
Others at Craughternaughter Hill,  
Where dwelt the pale Mac Twiddledill ;—  
There came the Knight ;—and thither sped  
The little hairy Quadruped ;  
Whom Host, and Guests, essay'd, in vain,  
To drive from the O'Shaughnashane.  
Where'er he went, whate'er the hour,  
On plain, or hill, in hall, or bower,  
At prayer, meals, sport,—all matters that  
An Irish Chieftain *could* be at,  
There grinn'd the same, eternal Rat ;  
Eluding every effort, still,  
To hurt, to catch it, or to kill.



## XX.

On Blarneygig's high Gateway rear'd,  
A Manifesto, now, appear'd ;  
Sir Tooleywhagg's most strict command,  
Writ in his own, improper hand ;  
From which, with pure, and classick dread,  
Orthography, and Grammar, fled.  
Five minutes' shower wash'd away  
" Read, and take notice, every day."  
What matter'd ?—for each Vassal knew  
His duty he was bound to do ;—  
But, in default of it, might plead  
Not one of them had learn'd to read.  
By word of mouth the Order, then,  
Was given,—and spread among the men ;—  
That, through the territory sought,  
To each apartment must be brought  
That foe instinctive to a rat,  
That Tiger's miniature,—the Cat.

## XXI.

Bagg'd, from a Cabin, on the skirt  
 Of thy morass, soft Grannyfert,  
 First, came a Cottyer's \* half-starved Tom,  
 Whom Famine had deducted from ;  
 Deducted, till it seem'd, through Fast,  
 That eight of his nine lives were past.  
 But soon his Cat-Star crying " eat,"  
 Relented, in the shape of meat ;  
 New sleek'd his coat, re-plump'd his flesh,  
 And gave him his lost lives, afresh.  
 Then, like the amorous Turk, he saw,  
 Though only a One-Tail'd Bashaw,  
 Around his wawling presence swell  
 A huge Seraglio, stock'd, pell-mell,  
 With black, white, tabby, tortoise-shell.

---

\* " They were persons who, not holding, or unable to hold, any lands on their own account, were obliged to work for their subsistence, throughout the whole year, for such cultivators of land as call'd themselves gentlemen. These labourers went by the name of Cottyers."—*Bell's Description of the Peasantry of Ireland.*

Yet, when about the Rat they ranged,  
 Their natural feline fury changed ;  
 The Rat no symptom shew'd of fright,  
 The Cats forgot to pounce, or bite ;  
 Each claw was shut ; and all the furr'd,  
 As if in love, and pity, purr'd.  
 Thus Wolves, before our Mother's vice,  
 Caress'd the Kid, in Paradise ;  
 The Lamb, thus, calmly, cropt the plain,  
 Beneath the peaceful Lion's mane ;  
 While, on the branch, that bloom'd above,  
 The Hawk sat billing with the Dove.

## XXII.

Thrice, through the Zodiack's signs, the Sun  
 His annual wheeling race had run,  
 While kept the Water-Fiend it's pace,  
 Haunting the Knight, from place to place.  
 Worn with the pest, on travel bent,  
 From rocky Blarneygig he went :—  
 Traversed the sea ; all Europe view'd ;  
 Still, still, the cursed Rat persued !

No change it manifested ;—save  
That which the various Nations gave.  
In France, thy Dressing-room, oh, World!  
It's whiskers seem'd more smartly curl'd ;  
Through Italy, a mellower note  
Squeak'd, like a quaver, from it's throat ;  
Among the Germans, all the day,  
It look'd not sober, though not gay,  
And gravely studied to maintain  
A haughty toss of nose in Spain.  
As, hopeless, home, the Chief, at last,  
O'er Scotia's barren Highlands past,  
The Reptile, shedding half it's hair,  
Grew hide-bound, till it's breech was bare ;  
And scratch'd, while Hunger mark'd it's jaws,  
Incessantly, between the claws \*.

---

\* Although the Author indulges in an allusion to a common-place national jest, he feels a sincere respect for the Scotch, as an honourable, brave, and acute people :—and he knows not that even the lower order of North-Britons are, in fact, troubled with the Itch, any more than that Englishmen hang and drown themselves in November.—He lived three years in Scotland, and never observed one instance of the above-mention'd cutaneous disorder.

## XXIII.

The Chief (his breast with sorrow big),  
Re-enter'd Castle Blarneygig.  
“ Bother !” he cried, “ ’tis all in vain,”  
“ Lady of the O’Shaughnashane !”  
“ As I return, returns my Foe ;”—  
“ We’ve made the Tour of Europe, though.”  
“ But, to what purpose did I roam ?”  
“ What, Judy,—what have I brought home ?”  
“ Like many a travell’d fool, no doubt,”  
“ No more, nor less, than I took out !”  
Next morn, he rose to chase the Deer,  
In the thick tangles of Dunleer.  
’Twere long to tell who in the mud  
Was left, chin-deep, at Gruddrybrud ;  
What horse, or rider, at Kilcleck,  
Now broke his wind, and now his neck :  
Enough that, when the lengthen’d shade  
Of oaks had vanish’d from the glade,—  
When a chill, sullen, star-less night,  
Was pressing dew-dript Evening’s flight,—

Dismounted, in a luckless hour,  
 (Far from his own, or any, tower,)  
 Upon a wide, and swampy plain,  
 Wander'd the lone O'Shaughnashane.  
 "How am I worn," he sigh'd, "Och Hone!"  
 "With melancholy to the bone!"—  
 Then set him down upon a stone;  
 To while the hours, till morning-tide,  
 With the Rat perking by his side.  
 'Twas then he heard,—no Minstrel nigh,—  
 A Kearnine \* twang his Lullaby.

### Song.

#### XXIV.

Huntsman, sleep †!—the Deer has jogg'd  
 From thy Hounds, not worth the chiding;  
 Huntsman, sleep! thy steed lies bogg'd,  
 Glander'd, spavin'd, not worth riding.

---

\* *Kearnine*. "This word is translated, by Vallancey, a small harp."—*Walker's Irish Bards*.

† "Huntsman, rest! thy chase is done."—See *Lady of the Lake; Canto I*.

Huntsman! 'tis thy fate to own  
 Leather lost, and empty belly!  
 Stick thy bottom on the stone,  
 Till the Rat shall squeak reveillie.

Huntsman, snore!—for up thou'rt done\* ;  
 And, before the rising sun,  
 To awaken, and assail ye,  
 Will the reptile squeak reveillie.

## XXV.



Light lingering, still, upon the ground,  
 The Wanderer cast his eyes around.  
 The Reptile, with the Chase o'ertoil'd,  
 Into a hairy ball was coil'd ;  
 And slept upon a heathery stump,  
 Spite of the hail, that beat it's rump.  
 While, turning from the storm, it dozed,  
 It's rear was to the Knight exposed.

---

The modern phrase, to be *done up*, has descended to us from the *Slangi* of the ancients.

“ Now, by the powers !” he utter’d low,  
“ I’ve taken by surprise the Foe !”  
“ Och ! divil ! have I, five years past,”  
“ Caught you, here, napping, now, at last !”  
He tiptoed, eager, through the hail,  
And seized his torment by the tail.  
The Vermin squeak’d !—Oh, well-a-way !  
Should vermin talk, in future day,  
No rhetorick could better teach  
A Rat to make its dying speech.  
Against the stone he dash’d it’s head,  
And saw his plague, at length, lie dead.  
It’s blood, while Man runs mortal race,  
Tempest, nor Time, will e’er efface.  
E’en now, the Antiquary pores  
O’er the grey stone ; and, there, explores  
(What cannot Antiquaries see !)  
Marks that ne’er were, nor e’er will be :—  
He traces, on a barbarous strand,  
A Fair denuded ;—in her hand



A Scroll, with two *O*s following *T*,  
 And, after that discovers *LEY*,  
 Then *W*, *H*, *A*, double *G* :—  
 Which, put together, make, full sure,  
 To lovers of the old obscure,  
 A ship-wreck'd Maid, dead many a year,  
 Still grasping all she held most dear ;  
 And cast on History a light,  
 Touching the Lady, and the Knight.

## XXVI.

Say how far off, as grey crow flies,  
 Did Blarneygig's dark turrets rise,  
 From the morasses, where was slain  
 The Rat, by the O'Shaughnashane?—  
 A toilsome length!—four leagues, at least ;—  
 Wind whistled chilly from the East ;  
 And eastward from the Castle lay  
 The swamps whereon the Chief did stray,  
 Wafting it's sounds the adverse way.

Yet, when the wretched Rat was crush'd,  
Loud, on the heath, a twangle rush'd,  
That rung out Supper, grand and big,  
From the crack'd Bell of Blarneygig.  
The festive metal's blundering tone  
Well to Sir Tooleywhagg was known ;  
Who, ear-directed, by it's sound,  
Squash'd, darkling, through the rotten ground.  
So, erst, did Satan,—(as 'tis sung  
By Thee, great Bard \* ! who England's tongue  
To such sublime perfection wrought,  
It only sunk beneath thy thought!—  
By Thee ! who, loyal to the Muse,  
Thy King didst prosingly abuse † !  
By Thee, like Homer, reft of sight,  
Like Homer, gifted to delight!)—

---

\* Milton.

† “ 'Tis in vain to dissemble, and far be it from me to defend, his engaging with a Party combine'd in the destruction of our Church and Mounarchy.” *Fenton's Life of Milton.*—See, also, *Milton's Prose Works.*

So, erst, did Satan drag his tail,  
O'er bog, o'er steep, or moory dale,  
And wading through mud, mire, and clay,  
With head, hands, feet, persue his way.  
At length, against his Castle-gate,  
A Hubaboo he gave full late.  
The muzzy Porter, Con Macguire,  
Roused his blown carcass from the fire,  
And oped the portal;—swift as light,  
Passing his Vassal, shot the Knight;  
When past, the Vassal lock'd, with care,  
The Gate, and mutter'd, “ Who goes there?”  
O'ercome with transport, and fatigue,  
(Oh, he had zig-zagg'd many a league!)  
In to his Dame, in slumbers hush'd,  
The great Sir Tooleywhagg he push'd,  
And, falling on his stomach flat,  
Roar'd, “ Judy, I have kill'd the Rat!”

## XXVII.

“ Speed, Looney, speed \* !” next morning cried  
 The jocund Chief, “ for thou must ride”  
 “ Fleet as the bolt that rends the tree,”  
 “ On rocky Cloghernochartee.”  
 “ Speed, Looney ! speed to every guest ;”  
 “ Ride North and South, ride East and West !”  
 “ Saddle grey Golloch ! spur him hard”  
 “ From Glartyflarty to Klanard ;”  
 “ From Killybegs, to Killaleagh ;”  
 “ Cross Ulster’s Province ;—haste away !”  
 “ Speed, Looney, speed !—invite them all ;”—  
 “ Baron Fitz Gallyhogmagawl,”  
 “ Dennis O’Rourke, of Ballyswill,”  
 “ D’Arcy, and pale Mac Twiddledill,”

---

\* “ *Speed, Malise, speed !*”—Malise, in the Lady of the Lake, is sent, in great haste, to invite gentlemen to a battle, instead of a dinner.—His master bids him *take a short stick, and punch it* :—

“ A cubit’s length, in measure due ;”

“ The shaft and limb were rods of yew.”

With this signal for war, which has been thrust into the fire, he runs through the country.

“ All the O’Brans, O’Finns, O’Blanes,”  
 “ Mac Gras, Mac Naughtans, and Mac Shanes.”  
 “ I hold a Feast;—thou know’st the day;”  
 “ Speed, Looney!—Looney, haste away!”

## XXVIII.

The day arrived ; the Guests were met ;  
 High in his Hall the Chief was set.  
 The horn he emptied soon as fill’d,  
 And, filling soon as empty,—swill’d.  
 All swill’d alike,—each Erin’s son  
 Appear’d a bursting, living ton.—  
 ’Twas at that crisis of the Feast  
 When purpled Man is almost Beast ;  
 When, either, friend his friend provokes,  
 By hiccuping affronts, for jokes,  
 Or goblets at the head are sent,  
 Before affronts are given, or meant ;—  
 A Vassal (now ’twas waxing late)  
 Announced a Stranger at the Gate.

“ A Stranger!” splutter’d forth the Knight,  
“ Tell him he’s welcome to alight.”  
“ Plase you,” return’d the Vassal, pale,  
“ She is, my Chieftain, not a Male!”  
“ She’s mantled in a sea-green weed \*,”  
“ And mounted on a rat-tail’d Steed ;”  
“ Her face is cover’d ; but she speaks”  
“ Like murmuring waves ; her Stallion squeaks :”  
“ And such a Rider, such a Nag,”  
“ You never saw, Sir Tooleywhagg.”  
Startled, half-sober’d, sore displeas’d,  
The Knight a swaling Candle seized,  
And staggering through his Castle Court,  
He reach’d the Spectre, at the port.  
The Apparition raised it’s veil,  
And shew’d the features, ashy pale !  
With ringlets, blood-drench’d, in her neck,  
Of the sad Lady of the Wreck.

---

\* Weed, formerly, signified a garment.—We, still, say *Widow’s weeds*.

## XXIX.

“ Perjured Seducer, list !” she said,  
 “ And tremble at the doubly dead :”  
 “ By Thee, to desperation urged,”  
 “ I plunged, and drown’d,—for Thee, emerged.”  
 “ The Ring drawn off, it gave me power,”  
 “ (For know ’twas charm’d) from that same hour,”  
 “ To join thee, cruellest of men !”  
 “ In one shape more, till death, again.”  
 “ Doating, I came ; to Thee I fled,”  
 “ A little faithful quadruped ;”  
 “ Doating, with Thee, from shore to shore,”  
 “ I swam, and trotted, Europe o’er.”  
 “ Was I not constant as thy Bride ?”  
 “ Why drive me, first, down Erin’s tide,”  
 “ Then kill me, since my Suicide ?”  
 “ Perjured Seducer, list !—thy doom”  
 “ Approaches ;—seek thy Banquet-Room ;”  
 “ Back to thy guests ; renew thy sport ;”  
 “ Be thy life merry, as ’tis short !”

“ For learn, thy latest vital gasp”  
“ Ends with the Candle in thy grasp.”  
“ Soon as burnt down, beyond all doubt,”  
“ Sir Tooleywhagg, thy life is out.”  
She ceased ;—a sea-wave roll'd to meet  
Her squeaking, rat-tail'd, Palfrey's feet ;  
And, foaming past the palsied Knight,  
Swept Horse, and Rider, from his sight.

## XXX.

Wan as the Spectre of the Flood,  
Before his guests the Chieftain stood.  
With trembling voice, he told them all :—  
“ Fate,” cried Fitz Gallyhogmagawl,”  
“ To thee, my son-in-law, doth give”  
“ Longer than other men to live.”  
“ If thou canst wave thy dying day,”  
“ Until the Candle burns away,”  
“ Thou may'st immortal be, Sir Knight,”  
“ Only by turning down the light.”



Oh! happy, happy thought!—'twas done ;  
 Sir Tooleywhagg a race might run,  
 And only burn out, with the Sun.

}

## XXXI.

Again the horns were fill'd by all,  
 And ululations shook the Hall.—  
 While noise and Whiskey rack'd the brain,  
 Still, kept the great O'Shaughnashane  
 (Who now mortality defied)  
 The blown-out Candle by his side :—  
 'Till sapping, at each feverish Toast,  
 The little sense a Sot can boast,  
 Quite vanquish'd, by potations deep,  
 The human swine all sunk to sleep.  
 What time they snorted loud, the fire,  
 And every taper, did expire.  
 A Vassal enter'd ; all was dark ;  
 The turf he blew,—but not a spark !  
 He groped the slopp'd oak-table round,  
 And there, laid down, a Candle found ;

The fatal Candle!—at a lamp,  
 Upon the stair-case, dim with damp,  
 Relumining the wick that gave  
 The Chief of Blarneygig his Grave,  
 He placed it where his Lord might take  
 The light, whenever he should wake.  
 Soon as the Candle 'gan to burn,  
 Sir Tooleywhagg he gave a turn;—  
 And groan'd ;—but still his eyes were closed,—  
 Death hovering round him while he dozed !  
 He dreamt of Tempest, of a Rat,  
 And Night-Mares rode him, as he sat.  
 A Thief within the Candle got,—  
 The heated Chieftain grew more hot ;  
 The Candle in the socket blazed ;  
 He oped his eyes,—his head he raised ;—  
 That moment he had raised his head,  
 The Light expired,—the Knight was dead !

---

Harp of the Pats ! farewell ! for, truly, I  
 Am growing very sick of Minstrelsy ;—  
 So get thee to the Bog again ! Good bye !

}  
}

... and ...  
... with damp ...  
... the ...  
... the ...  
... the ...  
... the ...  
... the ...

... but with his eyes ...  
... the ...  
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# TWO PARSONS;

OR

## THE TALE OF A SHIRT.

*Paupertas omnes artes perdocet.*—PLAUTUS.

ADAM and Eve were, at the World's beginning,  
Ashamed of nothing, till they took to sinning :  
But after Adam's slip,—the first was Eve's,—  
    With sorrow big,  
    They sought the Fig,  
To cool their blushes, with its banging leaves.

Whereby, we find  
That, when all things were recent,  
    (So paradoxical is human kind !)  
Till folks grew naughty, they were, *barely*, decent.

Thus, Dress may date its origin  
From Sin ;  
Which proves, beyond the shadow of dispute,  
How many owe their livelihoods to Fruit :—

For Fruit caused Sin ; and Sin brought Shame ;  
And all through Shame our Dresses came ;  
With that sad Stopper of our breath,  
Death !

Now, had not Woman work'd our fall,  
How many, who have trades, and avocations,  
Would shut up shop, in these our polish'd nations,  
And have no business to transact, at all !

In such an instance, what, pray, would become  
Of all our reverend Clergy ?—  
They would be thought uncommonly hum-drum,  
And banish'd, in a trice,  
Who, zealously, for pay, should urge ye  
Not to be Vicious, if there were no Vice.

What would become of all the *fie-fie* Ladies ?

And all Proprietors of *paw-paw* Houses ?

And all the learned Proctors,—whose grave trade is

Parting, from bed and board, the *paw-paw* Spouses ?

What would become of Heirs at Law, alas !

However Lawyers ferretted,

If Relatives to death would never pass,

And Heirs at Law,—never inherited ?

What would become of all ('tis hard to say !)

Who *thrive* on *Vice*,—but in a various way ?—

Those who maintain themselves by, still, maintaining it,

And those who live by scourging, and restraining it ?

Again,—if we should never die, nor dress,

But walk, immortally, in nakedness,

'Twould be a very losing game for those

Who furnish us with Funerals, and Clothes.

To sum the matter up, then, briefly,

Losers through Innocency would be, chiefly,—

The Lord Chief Justice, Undertakers,  
 Hatters, Shoe, Boot, and Breeches Makers ;  
 Jack Ketches, Parsons, Tailors, Proctors,  
 Mercers, and Milliners,—perhaps Quack Doctors ;  
 Hosiers, and Resurrection-Men,  
 Sextons,—the Bow-Street Officers,—and, then,  
 Those infinitely grander Drudges,  
 The big-wigg'd circuiteering Judges :—  
 The venal Fair who kiss to eat,  
 The Key-Keeper of Chandois Street ;  
 The—pooh!—there ne'er could be an end on't  
 Should I attempt to count them all, depend on't.—  
 We know “ *hoc genus omne* ” daily is  
 Before our eyes,—“ *cum multis aliis.* ”

But who would, then, have heard of, by the by,  
 The Vice-Suppressing, starch'd Society ?—  
 That tribe of self-erected Prigs,—whose leaven  
 Consists in *buckramizing* souls for Heaven ;  
 Those stiff-rump'd Buzzards, who evince the vigour  
 Of Christian virtue, by Unchristian rigour ;  
 Those Quacks, and Quixotes, who, in coalition,  
 Compose the Canters' secret Inquisition ;

Dolts, in our tolerating Constitution,  
 Who turn Morality to Persecution,  
 And, through their precious pates' fanatick twists,  
 Are part Informers, Spies, and Methodists?

What would become of these?—no matter what:—  
 It matters not, at all,  
 What would befall  
 Each bigot Ass, or hypocritick Sot.

But since, ah well a day! that Death and Dress  
 Have both obtain'd, what can our griefs express  
 To see poor Parsons,—*some* are poor, 'tis reckon'd,—  
 Prepare us for the *first*, and want the *second*.

Great Britain's principal Soul-Mender  
 Liveth, at Lambeth Palace, in great splendour;—  
 A Curate is another sort of man,  
 Very unlike the Metropolitan,  
 Living (without a Living) as he can. }

This last, who toils in a twofold vocation,  
 That is, between his Wife and Congregation,



Is, thereby, getting, all the while,—  
Which sure must raise (if nothing else) his bile—  
Scarce any thing but Children and Vexation.

Whene'er his Text he is about to handle,  
Lulling to sleep his Sunday people,  
'Tis wondrous how his zeal  
Can burn at all, with scarce a meal,—  
And not go out, just like a Candle,  
Under his great Extinguisher, the Steeple:—  
So small the salary, and fees,  
To help the Kneeler mend his breeches knees!

Oh! how must his Parishioners be hurt,  
While their good Pastor is his Text persuing,  
To know his surplice hinders them from viewing  
His ragged Small-clothes,—ragged as his Shirt!

This Theme!—to Volumes I could swell it;—  
But thereby hangs a Tale;—I'll tell it.

---

*Ozias Polyglot*, a Kentish Curate,  
 So much his orthodoxy manifested,  
 That by one Heathen Power he was detested,  
 Who to poor Polyglot was most obdurate.

This mythologick Deity was *Plutus*,  
 The grand Divinity of Cash;  
 Who, when he rumps us quite, and wont salute us,  
 If we are men in Commerce, then we *smash* :

If men of large Estate, then we retrench ;—  
 But, if we are, in all respects,  
 Mere simple Debtors, sans effects,  
 Hoping that *Plutus* may not always frown,  
 We then, as calmly as we can, sit down,  
 The King (Heaven bless him !) finding us a Bench.

The God of Cash hath, latterly, display'd  
 Much spite to sundry Citizens in trade ;  
 Abandoning, to the World's wonder,  
 Proud Firms, with whom 'twas thought he ne'er would sunder.

He hath, moreover, look'd a little blank,  
 And shewn a kind of coolness to the Bank :—  
 The mighty Bank, at whose command is  
 Great Credit, and Resource, has, all the while,  
 Return'd the coolness with no sort of bile,  
 To make men think it has the *yellow jaundice* :

But, finding Guineas in the Till run taper,  
 Has, providently, stopp'd the slit with Paper.

Now, Plutus having turn'd his back  
 On poor Ozias Polyglot,  
 The lazy fat Incumbent's hack,—  
 What had he got ?  
 I'll tell you what.

He had got Twins, for three years running ;  
 Which for a Curate is not over-cunning,  
 Who never is in riches wallowing ;—  
 But, for the three years following,  
 (And 'twas less hard, in his uxorious case)  
 His loving Rib, instead of Deuce, threw Ace.

In matters of Arithmetick,  
 At which I never boasted to be quick,  
 He whose sage head is better, far, than mine  
 Will find, according to my calculation,  
 Errors excepted, in the computation,  
 Ozias, in six years, got babies Nine!

The Parson dearly loved his darling pets,  
 Sweet, little, ruddy, ragged *Parsonets*!

Then,—which for all his drudging was not dear,—  
 This meek Improver of his Congregation,  
 This pious Helper of our Population,  
 Had got—just Twenty-Seven Pounds, *per* year.

Still, had Ozias Polyglot,  
 With all his gettings, never got,  
 Whereat the good man's trouble was not small,  
 An invitation to the HALL;—  
 Where dwelt a Thing of consequence, through Mire,  
 A many-acred, two-legg'd Ass,—the Squire.

'Tis true, the Country Squire, of modern days,  
Is greatly mended,—like his roads, and ways :

He is not, now, we know,  
That Porker he appear'd, some years ago ;—  
That swinish, stupid, fatten'd Lord of Grounds,  
That Hog of bumpering capacity ;  
With far more noise than any of his Hounds,  
And infinitely less sagacity.

He is not, now, as he was wont to be,  
So much the Cock of all his Company.  
He is not that tyrannick Wise-Man,  
Who, in a territory of his own,  
Can “ bear no Rival near his throne,”  
And, therefore, asks to dine, five days in six,  
That he may knock them down in politicks,  
The unresisting Lawyer, and Exciseman.

If such a Character should still remain,  
'Twas not the Squire who, now, possess'd the Hall :—  
He had not in his character a grain  
Of such a character, at all.

No;—he had travell'd ; and he knew,  
At least, set up to know, (which is the same  
For Fools, who get from Fools a sort of name,)  
Much about Paintings, Statues, and *Virtú*.

His Mansion was the pink of Taste, and Art :  
His charming Pictures!—oh, how they delighted you!  
In his Saloon Egyptian Monsters frightened you ;  
And Pagods, on his Stair-Case, made you start.

Nothing surpass'd his carpets, and his draperies,  
His clocks, chairs, tables, sofas, ottomans ;—  
His rooms were crowded with Etruscan aeries,  
Fine noseless busts, and Roman pots, and pans.

He had a marble Venus, on a stand,  
Wanting a leg, and a right hand ;  
A sweeter piece of Art was never found ;—  
Had not those Brutes, the sailors, rot 'em !  
In bringing her from Rome, knock'd off her bottom,  
She would have sold for Thirty Thousand Pound.

His Candlesticks, when guests retired to beds,  
Were Cleopatras, splash'd with *or moulu*,  
Or squab Mark Antonies, antiquely new,  
With wax-lights, ramm'd into their hands, or heads.

In every bed-room there were placed,  
Knick-knackereries of wondrous taste,  
With shells, and spars, stuff'd birds, and flies in amber;  
And, by the side of every bed,  
There stood a Grecian Urn, instead  
Of what is call'd, in France, a *pot de chambre*.

To see the wonders of a House thus stock'd,  
His London Friends, in shoals, came down,  
Though he resided sixty miles from Town,  
And parties upon parties flock'd.

Now, they who came these vanities to view  
Did not care two-pence for *Virtú*;  
Nor for the Dwelling, nor the Dweller;—  
But they delighted very much to look  
On the rare *carve-work* of the Squire's French Cook,

And to inspect, with special care,  
Those *crusted Vessels*, dragg'd to air,  
From the great *Herculanium*, his Cellar.

In short, whate'er the season or the weather,  
They, kindly, came to breakfast, dine, and sup,  
At the Squire's charge, for weeks together;—  
Giving themselves, most complaisantly, up  
To sensuality,—and all iniquity :  
Kissing the rural Venuses they found,  
With cherry-cheeks, on the Squire's Ground,  
Till the poor Damsels they attack'd  
Were Characters as crack'd,  
As his crack'd Venus of Antiquity.

The Londoners thus crowding to the Hall,  
It was no wonder  
That Parson Polyglot knock'd under,  
And never poked his nose in it, at all.

Besides the Squire for neighbours had a dread,  
And always “*cut the natives,*” as he said.



An accident, at last, however, granted  
 To Parson Polyglot the very thing  
 (As Iris said to the Rutilian King \*)  
 That Fate ne'er promised, and he so much wanted.

Some Wags were on a visit to the Squire,  
 Famous adepts in *practicable* joking,—  
 Which is as much true wit as smoke is fire,  
 Or puffing empty pipes tobacco-smoking.

These lively Apes of Genius,—who, for ever,  
 Their jests can as mechanically grind  
 As barrel-organ men their tunes,—opine'd  
*Hoaxing a Parson* was prodigious clever !

Therefore a Messenger was sent,  
 To run as fast as he was able,  
 With more of a command than compliment,  
 And bid Ozias to the Great Man's table.

---

\* “ *Turne, quod optanti Divum promittere nemo*”

“ *Auderet, volvenda dies, en, attulit ultro.*”—VIRG. ÆNEID.

The invitation made the Curate start!—  
Though worldly vanity could never bias,  
Till now, the meek affections of Ozias,  
Vain-Glory glow'd in his parsonick heart.

His eye shot ostentatious fire,  
(The first it ever shot off in his life,)  
When he was told by his prolifick Wife,  
The message that was sent him, from the Squire.

How oft it pains Historians to relate  
The truths which Truth obliges them to state!

The Fact, alas! must out:—then, be it known,  
The Reverend Ozias Polyglot—  
(Much about gettings has been said)—had got  
Only one Shirt that he could call his own.

He, now, had *spared* it;  
And he was lying, snug, between  
Two blankets, till his Rib had wash'd it clean,  
And plaited it, and iron'd it, and air'd it.

She had, that instant, hung it on the line,  
When the man knock'd, to bid him forth to dine.

The Parish Clock struck Five ;—at Six  
The Great Man chose his dinner-hour to fix.

'Twas three miles, in the dirt,  
Up hill, from the poor Parson's to the Hall :—  
“ Come, duck !” he cried, “ make haste, and dry the Shirt,”  
“ Or else I shant get there in time, at all.”

Vain the attempt !—his Duck refused to try it,  
Swearing it was *impossible* to dry it.

The Curate bid her pull it off the cord,  
And vow'd into his shirt he'd get ;—  
Says Mrs. Polyglot, “ good Lord !”  
“ You're mad, Ozias ; vy it's wringing vet !”

“ Where is my neckcloth, then ?”—another rub !  
'Twas soaking at the bottom of the Tub.

Never was hapless Preacher more perplex'd!

“ Woman!” he bawl'd, “ you see how time doth press me ;”

“ In all my life, I never was so vex'd!”—

Then, gulping “ *Damme,*” substituted “ *Bless me!*”

Thoughts kick'd up in his brain a sort of schism:—

What measure to adopt?—or what decline?

Was he to roll in bed?—or go to dine?—

Affront the Squire, or get the Rheumatism?

On one side lay his interest, and ambition;

“ A Patron might so better his condition!”

But, then, on t'other side,

His fears arose:

“ Folks lost the use of all their limbs, or died,”

He had been told, “ by sitting in wet clothes.”

“ What would my Flock do?—all my honest neighbours!”

“ If Death should, shortly, end my pious labours?”

“ Wife! what would *You* do, if disease assail'd me,”

“ And, all at once, my precious members fail'd me?”

People, unblest by Fortune's gifts,  
Wanting clean Shirts, will, often, find out *Shifts*.

The Parson's Surplice was laid by  
For Sabbath,—neatly folded up, and dry ;  
And, from the tail of that,  
His loving Helpmate snipp'd a slice,  
Which, in a trice,  
Made him a very long and white Cravat :—

So long, indeed,—whereat he was full glad,—  
That, (though 'twas narrow) from his chin  
Down to his knees,—Ozias being thin,—  
It hid, in front, what skin Ozias had.

Tied round his neck, it look'd extremely spruce ;  
He button'd up his waistcoat to the top ;  
Popp'd on his wig,—well flower'd for Sunday's use,  
To save expenses at the Barber's Shop.

The Clock chimed half past Five ;—“ as I'm a sinner !”  
The Churchman said, “ I shall be very late !”

“ But I’m equipp’d.”—He kiss’d his loving mate,  
And ran up hill, through clay, three miles to dinner.

Criticks may say,—

“ Why did Ozias scour,”

“ And scamper up so fast, through clay ?”

“ Dinner at Six is, scarce, a Curate’s hour ;”

“ Had not the Parson dined already, pray ?”

Ye Sages, who, minutely, thus object,

Know, first, the Parson did it from respect,—

And, next,—he had not dined at all, that day.

Pert, hireling Criticks ! self-sufficient elves !

Pray, did you *never* want a meal, yourselves ?

Ozias reach’d the Hall,—puffing, and blowing,—  
Exactly as appointed,—little knowing

How long for dinner he was doom’d to wait :

He knew not (simple Servitor of Heaven !)

That Fashion’s *Six* means half past Six, for Seven,

And, Seven come, the guests arrive at Eight.

A shoulder-knotted Puppy, with a grin,  
*Queering* the threadbare Curate, let him in.

Passing full many a Sphinx, and Griffin's head,  
 The Churchman to the Drawing-Room was led :—

No soul was there ;

But,—oh ! it's grandeur !—how it made him stare !

The *Elegancies* that he saw  
 Fill'd the Religionist with worldly awe ;  
 The Draperies, and Mirrors, much surprised him ;—  
 But when (recovering) he threw  
 His eyes on the collection of *Virtú*,  
 The Nudities quite shock'd, and scandalized him !

Titian's famed Goddess, in luxurious buff,  
 Was the first Piece the Parson thrust his nose on ;—  
 This prurient Picture surely was enough  
 Ozias to confound ;—  
 So he turn'd round  
 Upon a plump Diana with no clothes on.

The holy man observed, in every part,  
 Objects that "charm'd his eyes, and griev'd his heart."  
 He felt, all over him, a mix'd sensation,  
 A kind of shocking, pleasing, queer *flustration*.

"Fie on't!" he mutter'd, "I declare"  
 "Such Pictures should not on a wall be stuck :"  
 "I ne'er saw any thing so *very* bare,"  
 "Except 'twas Mrs. Polyglot, my Duck."

"And, if that naked Nymph, who looks so smugly,"  
 "Is Beauty's type,—then it must be confest"  
 "That Mrs. Polyglot, when quite undrest"  
 "Is most astonishingly ugly!"

The Butler enter'd now, with cake and wine,  
 And told him, as he went away,  
 'Twould be an hour, at least, he dar'd to say,  
 Before the company sat down to dine.

Polyglot toss'd a bumper off ;—it cheer'd  
 The cockles of his heart,—and gave him vigour



To face (what he, before, so much had fear'd)  
The Squire, and all the *Gentlefolks of Figure*.

He took a second bumper,—which so fired him,  
With so much gaiety inspired him,  
That he became another creature quite,  
And view'd all matters in a different light..

At all the objects, which had shock'd his gravity,  
He first began to smile,—though very slightly ;  
But soon, with more complacency, and suavity ;—  
Then, in a leering way, that borders  
Upon a style reckon'd *extremely* sprightly,  
For any married man, in holy orders.

He thought the Titian Beauty quite divine ;—  
This Shape was “ exquisite ! ”—that Posture, “ fine ! ”  
And all the unclad Ladies charm'd him, now :  
He even put his finger upon one,  
And cried,—“ how naturally *that* is done ! ”  
“ Aye, that's the *life*,—the *very thing*, I vow ! ”

Before a Glass, he, next, began to strut ;  
His flower'd wig in better order put—  
    And smooth'd against his sleeve his napless hat ;  
Call'd up a smirk he ne'er had known to fail,  
Pull'd higher round his neck the surplice' tail,  
    That serve'd for his Cravat :—

Which tail (as has been stated) being ample,  
He thought it not amiss to give a sample  
    That of clean linen he had, now, no lack ;—  
So twitch'd a little, at his waistband, out,  
To make the Party think, beyond a doubt,  
    He really *had* a shirt upon his back.

The Squire and all his Friends, at length, appear'd ;  
    Ozias, who, when by himself, had swagger'd,  
        Was stagger'd ;  
Yet, welcome'd by the Squire, was somewhat cheer'd :

But, to all polish'd company unuse'd,  
When to the *Gentry* he was introduce'd,

He, all the while,  
 Was trembling at the knees ;  
 And, trying to assume an air of ease,  
 “ Grinn’d, horribly, a ghastly smile !”

The Wags with starch grimace received the Parson,  
 And carried, with great gravity, the farce on ;  
 They didn’t *quiz* too much at the beginning ;  
 But all the Ladies of high *Ton*, and Taste,  
 Titter’d, and turn’d aside, to see his linen  
 Peep out so ostentatious, near his waist.

’Twould be most tedious to describe  
 The common-place of this *facetious* tribe,  
 These wooden Wits, these *Quizzers*, *Queerers*, *Smokers*,  
 These *practical*, nothing-so-easy Jokers ;  
 Pert, barbarous Insolents, who think it fine,  
 And clever, to insult a *poor* Divine ;  
 Who talk with fluency mere pun, and jingle ;—  
 But it is necessary, by the by,  
 To state, that, in the Company  
 There was the Reverend Obadiah Pringle.

He was the Chaplain to a Lord,  
 Who sat among the guests at table ;  
 But there was nothing which my Lord abhorr'd  
 So much as preaching ;—so the Chaplain, sure,  
 Had got a sinecure ;—  
 Not so ;—he regulated my Lord's Stable ;  
 Drank with my Lord,—the Irish Lord O'Grady,—  
 And was the Toady of my Lord's kept Lady.

Enough ;—Readers will be content  
 To hear that dinner pass'd ;—when Ladies went,  
 Then, in a brimmer, *Mother Church* was toasted :  
 With jokes, and winks,  
*Double entendres*, nods, and blinks,  
 And Parson Polyglot was nicely roasted :  
 But meek Ozias was not hoax'd alone,—  
*Some* jibes at Parson Pringle, too, were thrown.

At length, 'twas time that Polyglot should go ;  
 And, did he ?—that he didn't ;—no,—

It had been, all the day, most sultry weather,  
 And now it thunder'd, and it lighten'd ;  
 The Ladies of high *Ton* were vastly frighten'd ;—  
 They vow'd that Heaven and Earth would come together.  
 It rain'd (as people term it) Cats and Dogs,—  
 Delighting much the fishes, ducks, and frogs.

There was no choice ;—  
 The general voice  
 Proclaim'd Ozias could not stir ;  
 To which Ozias, knowing that his way  
 Lay, in a stormy night, through mud and clay,  
 Said nothing in the shape of a demur.

But how to stow him was the question :  
 The House was cramm'd  
 With married visitors, and single ;  
 The question then was brought to this digestion,—  
 That Parson Polyglot must, now, be ramm'd  
 Into a garret bed with Parson Pringle.

'Twas settled ;—but Ozias, in his sleeve,  
 (Not in his *shirt*-sleeve) felt extremely hurt  
 To think his brother Parson might perceive  
 A Clergyman without one bit of shirt.

And, then, on t'other side,  
 The Chaplain had his sentiments to hide :  
 The Reverend Mr. Pringle wanted not  
 Into a garret, first, to creep with,  
 And, then, (if sleep *could* close his eyes) to sleep with  
 The Reverend Ozias Polyglot.

“ Well, men must yield to the decrees of Fate !”  
 Mutter'd the Chaplain, in a tone emphatick ;  
 And, as it now was getting very late,  
 The brace of Parsons mounted to the Attick.

To pull his clothes off, Polyglot  
 Behind the bed-curtain had got,  
 Shirking, and dodging  
 From his Co-Partner, in their lofty lodging ;  
 And, when undress'd, he stood there quite forlorn :

He watch'd till Pringle turn'd away his head,  
Then took a sudden flying leap to bed,  
Stark naked as he was when he was born !

Scrambling the sheets and blankets round his shoulders,  
He was secure, he thought, from all beholders ;

But, to put matters out of doubt,  
He said to Pringle, " When you are undrest,"  
" I'll thank you, Sir, before you go to rest,"  
" To turn the Candle down, or blow it out."

" Nay, there you must excuse me ;" Pringle cried,  
" These thirty years, I have n't slept one night"  
" Without a lamp, or any sort of light ;"—  
" 'Twill burn quite safe, Sir, by the chimney side."

The Chaplain left the light to blaze ;—  
Getting to bed, the clothes aside he kick'd ;  
When, what could paint his horror and amaze,  
To see Ozias bare as any Pict !  
" Bless us !" he groan'd, his feelings vastly hurt,  
" Sir, do you always sleep without your Shirt?"

Says Polyglot,—'twas said quite coolly too,—

“Certainly, Mr. Pringle;—pray, don't *you*?”

“Who, I?—Lord, no;”—the Chaplain cried;

“Why, then, it is, Sir,” Polyglot replied,

“The most unwholsome thing that you can do.”

“I had it from a Doctor, Sir, who drives”

“His carriage,—he is in the highest practice;”

“And he assures me, on his word, the fact is,”

“Since practice he has been in,”

“He has known many hundreds lose their lives,”

“Or shorten them, by sleeping in their linen.”

Now, Pringle was a very nervous man,

And very credulous withal;—he mutter'd

“Can it be possible!”—and, then, began

To swallow all the lies Ozias utter'd.

Ozias cited cases, eight or nine,

Which he said came within his knowledge,

Besides examples from the college,

Of wasting, sweating, hecticks, and decline;—



And talk'd so much "about it, and about it,"  
That Pringle, with a melancholy air,  
Pull'd off his shirt, and laid it on the chair,  
And went to bed, and then to sleep, without it.

Next morning, Parson Polyglot  
Was first awake,—so out of bed he got ;  
And, thinking 'twould not much his carcase hurt,  
He drest himself in Parson Pringle's shirt :—

He then proceeded down the stairs,  
Giving himself a thousand foppish airs,—  
Leaving his bed-fellow to snore his fill out ;  
And hearing in the breakfast room was met  
The last night's fashionable set,  
He strutted up to them with a large frill out.

In twenty minutes after,  
Convulsing all the *Wags* with laughter,  
In rush'd the Chaplain, of his shirt bereft,  
And plumply charge'd Ozias with the theft ;

He said that he could prove it by his mark—  
Meaning the mark upon the linen's side;—  
But had this been by marking Judges tried,  
The Jury would have still been in the dark :—  
For their names happen'd so far to agree,  
Both their initials were an *O* and *P*.

So this could not have made the matter quiet;—  
Without a confirmation much more strong,  
Settling the question would have been as long  
As the fame'd Covent-Garden *O. P.* riot.

Pringle averr'd,—indeed, he almost swore,—  
That, having search'd their sleeping-room,  
'Twas fair, from circumstances, to presume  
Ozias had *no Shirt* the day before.

This charge the Females seem'd not to endure;  
For all the Ladies of high *Ton* and Taste,  
Remembering what had stuck out near his waist,  
Cried, “ Oh, Sir, that he had, we're *very* sure!”

In short, the Chaplain was oblige'd to yield ;  
And brave Ozias, the Incumbent's Hack,  
Much better'd, as to belly and to back,  
March'd homeward, fed, and shirted, from the Field.

But, not to leave his Character in doubt,  
Or lest the Clergy should be scandalized,  
'Tis fit the Reader should be advertised,  
When Mrs. Polyglot had wash'd it out,  
Ozias took the Shirt to the Green Dragon ;  
And, thence, anonymously sent  
To Pringle, at my Lord's, in Town, it went,  
And the Right Owner got it by the Waggon.

THE END.

Corrected to March 1813.

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