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**Contributors**

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DESCRIPTIVE NOTICES

OF

Popular English Histories.

BY

JAMES ORCHARD HALLIWELL, ESQ., F.R.S.,

F.S.A., HON. M.R.I.A., HON. M.R.S.L., ETC.

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Tho' wild the fable, though rude the rhyme,  
Oh! dear is a tale of the olden time.

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LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE PERCY SOCIETY,

BY RICHARDS, 100, ST. MARTIN'S LANE.

No. LXXIX.

NOVEMBER 1848.

HALLIWELL-PHILLIPS

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MDCCCXLVIII.





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## PREFACE.

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THE value of a popular history—by which we mean a narrative especially intended for the instruction or amusement of the unlearned—is not to be estimated by its apparent frivolity. And why is it not? Simply because such a composition is, in many cases, one of the few remaining records which arrested the destruction of numerous facts, trivial perhaps in themselves, but of the utmost importance to the correct understanding of some of our best writers.

A student who is anxious to attain that extensive knowledge of the habits, customs, and phraseology of our ancestors, without which the humour of Shakespeare and many of his contemporaries can only be imperfectly appreciated, will do well



to turn his attention to the ancient literature of the cottage, and make himself acquainted with the tales that were familiar "as household words" to the *groundlings* of the Globe or the Blackfriars. Those who despise this troublesome method of illustration do so without reflection, and invariably without a practical knowledge of its extreme utility. Let us ask, where would a reader turn for explanations of the jocular allusions in a modern farce or extravaganza? Certainly not to the works of Faraday or Mrs. Somerville, but oftener to the ballads of Seven Dials, or even to the songs of the nursery. The observation is true when applied to a more ancient period. If any proof were necessary, it would be found in the fact, that the tale of *Jack the Giant Killer* is quoted in the second greatest tragedy—*King Lear*.

We are insisting upon the usefulness of our fugitive popular literature, without the slightest reference to its undeniable value in the history of fiction and the transmission of romance. Merely regarding it as important in the illustration of works, which all the world admit are worthy of



illustration, it is contended that the most frivolous books that were read by our ancestors, are at the same time invaluable for the exposition of early English humour.

Under this impression, it is hoped that a short account of some of the most curious popular histories will not be unacceptable to the members of the Percy Society. It may, at all events, draw attention to a subject well worthy of attentive consideration, and attract the notice of those who may be enabled to make important additions to these imperfect memoranda.\*

Most of the pieces described in the following pages were printed in the last century, chiefly between the years 1720 and 1780; but it is to be observed that, although reprints of much earlier

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\*. We are so well aware of their defective quality, that we are most anxious to plead the apology usually accepted for the first essay in any branch of literature, no matter how humble, and to invite contributions. Any communications respecting popular histories, chap-books, garlands, or any of the numerous fugitive pieces of a like character, will be most thankfully and carefully acknowledged. They may be addressed to Mr. Halliwell, Avenue Lodge, Brixton Hill, Surrey.

boy." In Holland's *Leaguer*, 1632, mention is made of a house kept by Long Meg in Southwark:—"It was out of the citie, yet in the view of the citie, only divided by a delicate river; there was many handsome buildings, and many hearty neighbours, yet at the first foundation it was renowned for nothing so much as for the memory of that famous Amazon, *Longa Margarita*, who had there for many yeeres kept a famous infamous house of open hospitality." According to Vaughan's *Golden Grove*, 1608, "Long Meg of Westminster kept alwaies twenty courtizans in her house, whom by their pictures she sold to all commers." She is also remembered by Middleton, in the *Roaring Girl*, act v, scene 1:—"Was it your Meg of Westminster's courage that rescued me from the Poultry puttocks indeed?" See also the *Scornful Lady*, act v, scene 2. Westminster Meg is mentioned by Ben Jonson. See his *Works*, ed. Gifford, viii, 78:—

Or Westminster Meg,  
With her long leg,  
As long as a crane,  
And feet like a plane.

Gifford says she performed many wonderful exploits about the time that Jack the Giant-killer flourished. She was buried, as all the world knows, in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey, where a huge stone is still pointed out to the Whitsuntide visitors as her grave-stone.

This work continued to be printed till the commencement of the present century, and I possess



several editions issued between 1740 and 1800, all of which are abridged copies of the original, but otherwise agreeing very accurately with it. A play called *Longe Mege of Westmester* is mentioned in Henslowe's *Diary*, as having been acted early in 1595, and it appears to have continued a favourite on the stage for some years. No copy of it has been preserved. Long Meg is mentioned in the list of authors prefixed by Taylor, the Water Poet, to his *Sir Gregory Nonsense, his Newes from no Place*, in the second part of his *Workes*, fol. Lond. 1630; and in the play of *Westward Hoe*, 1607. "You will find it worth Meg of Westminster, altho' it be but a bare jig," *Hog hath lost his Pearl*, 1614.

The following lines, entitled "Long Meg of Westminster to Dulcinea of Toboso," occur in Gayton's *Pleasant Notes upon Doñ Quixote*, 1654, p. 289:—

I, Long Meg, once the wonder of the spinsters,  
 Was laid, as was my right, i' th' best of minsters,  
 Nor have the wardens ventur'd all this whiles  
 To lay, except myselfe, one in those iles.  
 Indeed, untill this time, ne'r any one  
 Was worthy to be Meg's companion.  
 But since Toboso hath so fruitfull been,  
 To bring forth one might be my sister twinne,  
 Alike in breadth of face; no Margeries  
 Had ever wider cheeks or larger eyes;  
 Alike in shoulders, belly, and in flancks,  
 Alike in legs too, for we had no shancks,  
 And for our feet, alike from heel to toe,  
 The shoemakers the length did never know.  
 Lye thou by me, no more it shall be common,  
 One Ile of Man there is, this Ile of Woman.

The only impression of Long Meg noticed by Lowndes is that of 1635, which sold at the Nassau sale for £5. 7s. 6d.

2. THE MOST PLEASANT HISTORY OF TOM A LINCOLN, that ever renowned Souldier, the Red-rose Knight, who for his Valour and Chivalry was surnamed the Boast of England. Shewing his Honourable Victories in Forrain Countries, with his strange Fortunes in the Fayrie-land, and how he married the faire Anglitora, daughter to Prester John, that renowned Monark of the World. Together with the lives and deaths of his two famous sons, the Black Knight and the Fairy Knight, with divers other memorable accidents, full of delight. London, Printed for Francis Coles at the Signe of the Half-bowle in the Old Baily, 1655.

In black-letter. This is called on the title-page the ninth impression. It was entered on the books of the Stationers' Company on December 24th, 1599, to W. White by assignment from W. Danter; and the second parte to the same on October 20th, 1607. The sixth edition appeared in 1631, the seventh in 1635, and the twelfth in 1682. It was written by Richard Johnson.

3. Another edition, Printed by Tho. Norris at the Looking-glass on London-bridge, n. d.
4. THE HISTORY OF THE SEVEN WISE MASTERS OF ROME, now newly corrected, better explained in many places, and enlarged with many pretty pictures, lively expressing the full history, 12mo.



London, Printed by J. W. for G. Conyers at the Golden Ring in Little Britain, 1697.

In black-letter, with wood-cuts. The history of these very popular tales has been given by Mr. Wright, in the preface to his edition of the *Seven Sages*, 1845. A small abridged version, of twenty-four pages, was circulated during the last century as a penny-history. Kirkman said, in 1674, that this collection is “of so great esteem in Ireland, that next to the horn-book and knowledge of letters, children are in general put to read in it, and I know that only by that book severall have learned to read well, so great is the pleasure that young and old take in reading thereof.” In confirmation of this, may be adduced a passage in the Irish poem called the *Rivalry of O'Rourke*, written by Hugh MacGowran about the year 1712, which has been translated by Swift and Wilson :—

Then rose a big fryar  
 To settle them straight,  
 But the back of the fire  
 Was quickly his fate ;  
 From whence he cry'd out,  
 Do ye thus treat your pastors ?  
 Ye, who scarcely were bred  
 To the *Seven Wise Masters*.

5. THE FAMOUS, PLEASANT, AND DELIGHTFUL HISTORY OF PALLADINE OF ENGLAND : discoursing of honourable adventures, of knightly deeds of arms and chivalry : interlaced, likewise, with the love of sundry noble personages, as time and affection limited their Desires. Herein is no offence offered to the wise by wanton speeches,



or encouragement to the loose by lascivious matter. 12mo. London, c. 1690.

This is called on the title "the second edition", but it originally appeared in 1588, and another edition was published in 1664, 4to. In November, 1587, it was entered unto Edward Alde, "upon condytion that he get yt orderly authorysed and allowed to the print when yt is translated into Englyshe". The English translation was entered in 1595, to Valentine Symmes, and again, in August 1596, to John Danter. The present is a reprint of the 1664 edition, and contains a short preface by the printer, T. Johnson. The romance was translated by Anthony Munday from the French, "Histoire Palladienne traitant des gestes et genereux faits d'armes et d'amours de plusieurs grands princes et seigneurs, specialement de Palladien; mise en François par Claude Colet," 8vo. Paris, 1573. The 1588 edition is entitled, "The famous pleasant and variable Historie of Palladine of England, discoursing of honorable Adventures, of Knightly deedes of Armes and Chivalrie: enterlaced likewise with the love of sundrie noble personages, &c. Translated out of French by A. M., one of the Messengers of her Majesties Chamber. At London, Printed by Edward Alde for John Perin." It is censured by Meres in his *Palladis Tamia*, 1598, f. 268.

6. OF THE FAMOUS AND PLEASANT HISTORY OF PARISMUS, the valiant and renowned Prince of Bohemia, in two parts: containing his triumphant battels fought against the Persians, his love to the



beautiful Laurana, the great Dangers he passed in the Island of Rocks, and his strange Adventures in the Desolate Island: containing the Adventurous Travels and noble chivalry of Parismenos, the Knight of Fame, with his love to the fair Princess Angelica, the Lady of the Golden Tower, 12mo. *Black-letter*. Printed at the Looking-glass on London-bridge, n. d.

With a wood-cut frontispiece, containing portraits of Laurana and Parismus. This romance, which was exceedingly popular, was written by Emanuel Foord-Douce had two editions; one printed in 1696, 4to. and another, the seventh, dated 1724. Gifford, in his *Autobiography*, says that at the age of fifteen, "I had read nothing but a black-letter romance, called *Parismus and Parismenus*, and a few loose magazines." This romance was abridged, and constantly printed as a penny history at Aldermary Church-yard, and other places. I have the fifth edition, with numerous cuts, dated 1713. It was entered on the books of the Stationers' Company, by Creed, in November 1597, and published the following year under the title of "Parismus, the renowned Prince of Bohemia, his most famous, delectable, and pleasant History, conteining his noble battailes fought against the Persians, his love to Laurana, the King's daughter of Thessaly, and his strange adventures in the Desolate Island." In 1599, appeared, "Parismenos, the second part of the most famous delectable History," &c. This had been entered to Thomas Creed on October 25th, 1598: "Parismenos, the Triall of true Friendship, conteininge the

second part of the History of Parismenos, otherwise called the second parte of the Castle of Fame.”

7. THE HISTORY OF GEORGE A GREEN, Pindar of the Town of Wakefield, his Birth, Calling, Valour, and Reputation in the Country: with divers pleasant as well as serious Passages in the Course of his Life and Fortune. Illustrated with cuts. Sm. 8vo. London, Printed for Samuel Ballard at the Blue-Ball in Little Britain, 1706.

The wood-cuts in this book are greatly superior to most of the specimens met with in similar productions, as may be judged from the frontispiece here copied. There is a curious early MS. of this prose history in the library of Sion College, which may be the original whence the present edition is taken, for the preface says, “As for the history itself, it’s very easie to observe, by its phraseology and manner of writing, that ’tis not very modern, but that the manuscript must at least have been as old as the days of Queen Elizabeth. It’s lodged in a publick library in the city of London, from which a copy was taken, and is now made publick, with no other alteration than such as were necessary to make the sence tolerably congruous.” George a Green is thus noticed by Drunken Barnaby:—

Straight at Wakefield I was seen a,  
Where I sought for George a Green a,  
But could not find such a creature ;  
Yet on a sign I saw his feature,  
Where strength of ale had so much stirr’d me,  
That I grew stouter far than Jordie.





This volume contains 109 pages, exclusive of frontispiece, title, epistle dedicatory “to the Steward and other the Gentlemen and Inhabitants in the Town and Lordship of Wakefield in the West-Riding of the County of York,” signed by N. W., the preface, and one leaf containing a list of “books printed and sold by Samuel Ballard at the Blue-Ball in Little Britain.”

George a Green is mentioned in Gayton’s *Pleasant Notes upon Don Quixote*, 1654, p. 21: “Had you heard of Bevis of Southampton, the Counter-scuffle, Sir Eglamore, John Dory, *the Pindar of Wakefield*, Robin Hood, or Clem of the Cluff, these no doubt had been recommended to the Vatican without any *Index Expurgatorius* or censure at all.”

#### 8. THE PLEASANT HISTORY OF THE FROLICKSOME

COURTIER AND THE JOVIAL TINKER. 12mo.  
London, n. d.

A curious medley of tales, the first of which is on the same story as the Induction to the *Taming of the Shrew*.—1. How finding a drunken tinker asleep, he had him carried in that posture to his house; laid him on a bed in a stately room, with rich cloaths by him, feasted and entertained him with musick, and making him drunk, conveyed him back again.—2. How he bought all the butter of a woman going to market, and the frolicks he played with her for being over covetous, causing the saying, when a woman scratches her, butter will be cheap.—3. By what a comical method he relieved the poor widow of Mortlake against the Parson of the Parish, who had stopped up her water-gap.—4. How he served the tinker coming again to his house, because he complained he could get no drink.—5. A comical trick he made the tinker serve an old farmer, who used to ride sleeping, making him think that his horse was a devil.—6. How the tinker complained to him of a butcher's dog that often assaulted him: how he put on the tinker's habit, fought with and killed the dog, and the comical examination before a Justice.—On the title is a wood-cut of the old Covent Garden. The first tale, not having been reprinted in any Shakesperian collection, is here given:

Riding one day along with his retinue, he espied a tinker (who had been taking a very early draught, to quench the spark in his throat) lying fast asleep, and snoring under a sunny bank, having made his budget



into his pillow, to rest his drowsy head upon, and the courtier's country house not being far off, he immediately caused his servants to take him up very softly, and carry him thither; then to put him in a stately bed in the best chamber, pull off his foul shirt and put him on a clean one; then convey away his old cloaths and lay rich ones by him. This was punctually observed. The tinker being thus laid, slept soundly till evening, when rousing up between sleep and waking, and being dry, as usually drunkards are, he began to call for drink, but was extremely frightened to find himself got into such a place, furnished with lights, with attendants about him that bowed to him, and harmonious musick accompanied with most charming voices, but none of them to be seen. Whereupon, looking for his old cloaths and budget, he found a muff and rich attire glittering with gold by him, which made him fancy himself metamorphosed from a tinker to a prince. He asked many questions, but in vain, yet being willing to rise, the attendants arrayed him in the richest attire, so that he looked on all sides admiring the sudden change of fortune, as proud as a peacock when he spreads his tail against the glittering beams of the sun. And being arrayed, they carry him unto another room, where was a costly banquet prepared; and placed him in a chair, under a fine canopy fringed with gold, being attended with wine in gilded cups. At first he strained courtesy,\* but being

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\* That is, stood upon ceremony. The phrase occurs in Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*, ii, 4.

entreated to sit down, the banquet being solely at his disposal, he fell too most heartily. Then after supper they ply'd him with so much wine as to make him dead drunk; then stripping him, and putting on his old cloaths, they carried him as they had brought him, and laid him in the same posture they found him, being all this time asleep; and when he waked in the morning staring about, he took all that happened before for a vision, telling it wherever he came, that he had verily dreamed he had been a prince, telling them, as well as he could, all that had happened, but plainly he now saw again, his fortune would raise him no higher than to mend old kettles. Yet he made this song for the fraternity to sing at leisure.

All you that jovial tinkers are,  
 Come listen unto me :  
 I dream'd a dream that was so rare,  
 That none to it can e'er compare,  
 No tinker such did see.

I thought I was a king indeed,  
 Attired gay and fine :  
 In a stately palace I did tread,  
 Was to a princely banquet led,  
 And had good cheer of wine.

But soon I found me in a ditch,  
 That did no comfort lend :  
 This shews a tinker, tho' he itch  
 To be a prince or to grow rich,  
 Must still old kettles mend.

9. JOAKS UPON JOAKS, OR NO JOAK LIKE A TRUE  
 JOAK, being the comical humours of Mr. John



Ogle, the life-guard man; the Merry Pranks of the Lord Moon, the Earl of Warwick, and the Earl of Pembroke; with the Lord Rochester's dream, his Maiden's disappointment, and his mountebank speech in Tower-hill. Together with the diverting Fancies and Frolicks of King Charles and his three Concubines. 12mo. London, printed by and for T. Norris, at the Looking-glass on London-bridge, n. d.

According to this history, John Ogle was "the younger son of a gentleman in Northamptonshire; his fortune being small, he quickly spent it, but his sister, being mistress to the Duke of York, got him into the first troop of guards, under the command of the Duke of Monmouth." Of the tales here related, the following may serve as a sample:—"There being a general muster of life-guards in Hyde Park, and Ogle having lost his cloak at play, therefore he borrowed his ladyship's scarlet petticoat; so, tying it up in a bundle, put it behind him, then mounted safe enough, as he thought. So away he went, but one of the rank perceiving the border, he gave the Duke of Monmouth some item of it, and fell into his rank again. The Duke, smiling to himself, said, 'Gentlemen, cloak all;' which they did, except Ogle, who, stammering and staring, saying, 'Cloak all, cloak all! what a —— must we cloak for? It don't rain:' but not cloaking, the Duke said, 'Mr. Ogle, why don't you obey the word of command? Cloak, sir!' Said Ogle, 'Why, there then,' and peeping his head out of the top of the petticoat, saying, 'I can't cloak, but I can petticoat with the best of you'; which caus'd great laughter among



the whole company." Towards the end of the tract is a wood-cut of Lord Rochester on a stage, with bottles, in the character of a mountebank. Several stories of Nell Gwyn are also worth notice, as well as an anecdote of Lord Mohun, the Earl of Warwick, and the old woman with her codlings at Charing-cross.

10. Another edition, in verse, "to the merry tune of the Cambridgeshire Lass, or the Two Sharpers outwitted at the Royal Exchange, with a child in a basket, instead of a couple of Geese." 8vo. London, c. 1721.

This is a version of the last piece, entirely in verse, and illustrated with cuts, amongst which may be noticed a curious one of a hackney-coach of the time. It is very rare, and has not been reprinted. On this account, I give the following anecdote as a specimen of the style in which it is written:—

The Dutchess of Portsmouth one time supp'd with the King's  
 majesty ;  
 Two chickens was at table, when the Dutchess would make  
 'em three :  
 Nell Gwin being by, denied the same ; the Dutchess speedily  
 Reply'd, here's one, another two, and two and one makes three.  
 'Tis well said, lady, answer'd Nell : O King, here's one for  
 thee,  
 Another for myself, sweet Charles, 'cause you and I agree :  
 The third she may take to herself, because she found the same :  
 The King himself laughed heartily, whilst Portsmouth  
 blush'd for shame.

11. A CHOICE PENNYWORTH OF WIT, or clear Distinction between a virtuous Wife and a wanton

Harlot, in three parts: how a merchant was deluded from his lady by a harlot, to whom he carried gold, jewels, and other things of value, for many years, which she received with unspeakable flattery, till his wife gave him a penny to lay out in a pennyworth of wit. Sm. 8vo. Printed for S. Wates, in Fleet-street, 1707.

A very popular ballad-tale, which has been reprinted in the north-country chap-books up to a very recent period; and is also common as a sheet ballad. It commences:

Here is a pennyworth of wit  
 For those that ever went astray;  
 If warning they will take by it,  
 'Twill do them good another day.

The story has appeared in many forms, as in the ancient poem, *How a merchande dyd hys wyfe betray*, printed in Ritson's *Pieces of Ancient Popular Poetry*, 1791, p. 69, which is probably the same as the *Chapman of a Pennyworth of Wit*, mentioned by Laneham, 1575. The tale also occurs in *Penny-wise, pound-foolish, or a Bristow diamond, set in two rings, and both crack'd*, 4to. 1631. *A Pennyworth of Wyt* was licensed to John Sampson in 1561.

12. THE PLEASANT HISTORY OF TAFFY'S PROGRESS  
 TO LONDON, with the Welshman's Catechesm:

Behold in wheel-barrow I come to town,  
 With wife and child to pull the Taffies down:  
 For sweet St. David shall not be abus'd,  
 And by the rabble yearly thus misus'd.

Sm. 8vo. London, printed for F. Thorn, near Fleet-street, 1707.



A curious wood-cut on the title, representing a Welchman, with leeks in his hat, in a barrow. The tract is a severe satire on the Welch. In answer to the question, why they wear leeks on St. David's day, Taffy says,—“Cuds flesh, her fery plood boils at hur now; hur cou'd eat hur now with corn of salt: what! find fault with that which hur countrymen wears to the honour of Saint Tavy? By te great Calwalladar, hur cou'd fain in hur heart to lay hur countryman's towel about hur for hur sarciness.”

13. THE NEW WIFE OF BEATH much better reformed, enlarged, and corrected, than it was formerly in the old uncorrect copy. With the addition of many other things. 12mo. Glasgow, 1700.

In black-letter. According to the address to the reader, this is the second edition of this very popular poem, of which so many copies were circulated. This impression is very rare, the present copy, and one in Mr. Bright's collection, 6041, which sold for £1. 12s., being the only ones that appear in the sale-catalogues. The original of this curious piece is a fable of the thirteenth century, *Du Vilain qui conquist Paradis par plait*, printed in *Barbazan*, iv, 114. It may be necessary to mention that this is altogether different from the ballad on the same subject printed by Evans, although one was probably formed from the other.

14. THE PLEASANT AND DELIGHTFUL HISTORY OF DORASTUS, PRINCE OF SICILY, AND FAWNIA, ONLY DAUGHTER AND HEIR TO PANDOSTO, KING OF



BOHEMIA ; pleasant for age, to shun drowzy thoughts ; profitable for youth, to avoid other wanton pastimes, and bringing to both a desired content. A pleasant winter-evening's entertainment. By R. Green, Master of Arts in Cambridge. 12mo. London, 1696.

This was first published in 1588, under the title of "Pandosto, the Triumph of Time, wherein is discovered, by a pleasant historie, Truth may be concealed, yet by Time, in spite of fortune, it is most manifestly revealed," &c. Imprinted at London by Thomas Orwin for Thomas Cadman, dwelling at the Signe of the Bible, neere unto the North doore of Paules, 1588. This copy contains the *Love-passion*, mentioned by Mr. Dyce, Greene's *Works*, ii, 242, as not being in the early editions. It is almost unnecessary to observe that Shakespeare's *Winter's Tale* was founded upon this romance.

15. THE LOVERS' QUARREL, OR CUPID'S TRIUMPH, being the Pleasant and Delightful History of Fair Rosamond, who was born in Scotland. She was the only daughter of the Lord Arundel, whose love was obtain'd by the valour of Tommy Potts, who wounded and conquered the Lord Phœnix in a Duel. Likewise his Marriage to the fair Lady. 12mo.

One of the early original editions, without date, but printed about 1740. It was reprinted by Ritson, in his *Pieces of Ancient Popular Poetry*, 1799, p. 117. Later copies differ exceedingly, the text having been modernized. The wood-cuts to the present are most incongruous, the first being a representation of the fall

of Friar Bacon's brazen head, and the last of Noah's Ark! It commences thus :

Of all the lords in Scotland town,  
And ladies that be so bright of blee,  
There is a noble lady among them all,  
And report of her you shall hear by me.

I possess a curious edition, printed at Newcastle, about 1760, plentifully embellished with cuts, and containing the Second Part, which was unknown to Ritson. This is entitled, "The Lovers' Loyalty, or the Happy Pair, giving an account of the happy lives of Tommy Potts (now Lord Arundel) and the Fair Rosamond, his charming bride, who loved and lived in peace and unity all their days; the Second Book." It commences :

How Tommy Potts did win his bride  
By dint of sword, you needs must know ;  
Giving great Lord Phoenix the foil,  
As the first book doth plainly show.

Another edition, in my possession, printed about 1780, is entitled, "The History of Tommy Potts, or the Lovers' Quarrel" :

Thus Tommy Potts does here trepan  
The lady's heart, tho' a serving man.

16. THE FORCE OF NATURE, OR THE LOVES OF HIPPOLITO AND DORINDA. Translated from the French original, and never before printed in English. 12mo. Northampton, 1720.

This is a chap-book history on the same tale as the *Tempest*, and has escaped the notice of all the editors



of Shakespeare. It is evidently made up from that play, and the assertion of its being a translation from the French is most probably erroneous, as some of the original drama is literally quoted.

17. THE WHOLE TRYAL AND INDICTMENT OF SIR JOHN BARLEYCORN, KNIGHT, a person of noble birth and extraction, and well known to be both rich and poor throughout the kingdom of Great Britain: being accused for several misdemeanours by him committed against her Majesty's liege people, by killing some, wounding others, and bringing thousands to beggary, to the ruin of many a good family. Here you have the substance of the evidence given in against him on his tryal, with the names of the judges, jury, and witnesses. Also, the comical Defence Sir John makes for himself, and the good character given him by some of his neighbours, namely Hewson the cobbler, an honest friend to Sir John, who is entomb'd as a memorandum at the Two Brewers in East Smithfield. Taken in short-hand by Timothy Toss-pot, Foreman of the Jury. Sm. 8vo. London, Printed for J. Dutton, 1709.

A very curious satirical tract, written by Thomas Robins, which continued to be reprinted for a century after this edition appeared. The following list of the jury is curious:

Timothy Toss-pot.	Richard Standfast.
Benjamin Bumper.	Small Stout.
Giles Lick-spigot.	John Never-sober.
Barnaby Full-pot.	Obadiah Thirsty.
Lancelot Toper.	Nicholas Spend-thrift.
John Six-go-downs.	Edmond Empty-purse.

Sir John Barleycorn is tried in regular form, the



jury returning a verdict of Not Guilty. The evidence is singularly curious. We may extract, for example, that of Sir John's uncle, Mr. Mault, who, of course, appears for the defence: "First, I pray consider with yourselves, all trades will live, and altho' I sometimes, with my cousin Sir John's help, make a cup of good liquor, and many men come to taste it, yet the fault is in neither of us, but in them that make the complaint, else let 'em stay till they are sent for. Who can deny but that Mr. Mault can make a cup of good liquor by the help of a good brewer, and when it is made it must be sold; I pray which of you all can live without it? Where else would you sop your toast and nutmeg, and what should assuage the thirst of gammons and red-herrings? Were I to suffer, lords, knights, and esquires would want their March beer and October to treat their tenants and their friends: bottle-ale and stout would be wanted at Islington and Highgate to treat your wives with: old women would want hot-pots of brandy and ale, and the good-wife that lies in could have no caudle." The tract concludes with a song "to the tune of Sir John Barley-corn". An old ballad, from which this tract may perhaps be taken, is printed in Evans, ed. 1810, iv, 214; and Burns was no doubt indebted to the former for his celebrated song on the same subject.

18. THE HISTORY OF THE TWO CHILDREN IN THE WOOD REVIV'D, OR MURDER REVENG'D, containing the sad and lamentable Story of the Death of two Children of a Gentleman, who, after the Decease



of their Parents, were delivered, by their uncle, to two ruffians, to be murdered for their estates, but in the end they were left in an unfrequented wood, and there starved to Death, and covered over by a Robin Redbreast: Together with the sad relation of the heavy judgements that befel their unnatural uncle, who died miserable in prison, and how it came to be discovered by one of the ruffians upon his being condemned for a notorious robbery. With many other passages and circumstances at large. 12mo. Licensed and entered according to order, n. d.

This tale is founded on the same story which is the subject of the second part of a tragedy by Robert Yarrington, 4to. 1601, entitled, "Two Lamentable Tragedies; the one of the murther of Maister Buch, a chandler in Thames-street, and his boy, done by Thomas Merry; the other of a young childe murdered in a wood by two Ruffins, with the consent of his uncle." In the play, however, one child only is murdered. The chapters are thus entitled:—1. How Pisaurus, seeking a wife, accidentally fell in love with the fair Eugenia. 2. How Pisaurus found means to discover his passion to Eugenia, and how she consented; also the marriage-day appointed. 3. How the happy nuptials were celebrated, and of the ominous presage. 4. How Androgus, brother to Pisaurus, desirous of his estate, laid this unsuccessful project. 5. How Cassandar and Jane being born, Pisaurus and Eugenia fell sick, and by what means. 6. How Androgus returned, visited his brother and sister, and of his dissimulation. 7. How Pisaurus made his will, de-



livered his children to Androgus, and died as did his wife. 8. What thought Androgus had about putting to death his brother's children, but had not the heart to put it in practice himself. 9. How Androgus met with Rawbones and Woudkill, and agreed with them to murder his brother's children. 10. How the ruffians fell out about the disposal of the children, and how Rawbones killed his partner, and covered him up in a pit. 11. How Rawbones left the children in an unfrequented wood, where they died. 12. How the murder came to be discovered at the gallows. The ballad on the same story, so highly commended in the *Spectator*, No. 85, is printed by Percy, ed. 1840, p. 238. It is also alluded to again in the *Spectator*, No. 179.

19. MOTHER BUNCH'S CLOSET NEWLY BROKE OPEN, containing rare Secrets of Art and Nature, tried and experienced by learned Philosophers, and recommended to all ingenious young Men and Maids, Teaching them in a natural way how to get good wives and husbands. By our loving friend Poor Tom, for the King, a lover of mirth, but a hater of treason. 12mo. With wood-cuts, n. d. In two parts.

This very curious collection of vernacular customs, digested into the form of a narrative, seems to have escaped the notice of our writers on popular antiquities. The present edition was printed about 1770, but it was published very long before, being thus referred to in *Wit and Drollery*, 1682, p. 42 :—

Wit that shall make thy name to last,  
 When Tarleton's jests are rotten,  
 And George à Green, and *Mother Bunch*,  
 Shall all be quite forgotten.

*A Way to tell who must be your Husband.*—“Take a St. Thomas's onion, pare it, and lay it on a clean handkerchief under your pillow; put on a clean smock, and as you lie down, lay your arms abroad, and say these words :—

Good St. Thomas, do me right,  
 And bring my love to me this night,  
 That I may view him in the face,  
 And in my arms may him embrace.

Then, lying on thy back with thy arms abroad, go to sleep as soon as you can, and in your first sleep you shall dream of him who is to be your husband, and he will come and offer to kiss you; do not hinder him, but catch him in thy arms, and strive to hold him, for that is he. This I have tried, and it was proved true. Yet I have another pretty way for a maid to know her sweetheart, which is as follows :—Take a summer apple of the best fruit, stick pins close into the apple to the head, and as you stick them, take notice which of them is the middlemost, and give it what name you fancy; put it into thy left hand glove, and lay it under thy pillow on Saturday night after thou gettest into bed; then clap thy hands together, and say these words :—

If thou be he that must have me,  
 To be thy wedded bride,  
 Make no delay, but come away  
 This night to my bedside.”—(pp. 10-11.)



20. THE HISTORY OF THOMAS OF READING, AND OTHER WORTHY CLOTHIERS OF ENGLAND, setting forth their mirth, great riches, and hospitality to the poor, and the great favour they gained with their Prince. Concluding with the woeful death of Thomas of Reading, who was murdered by his host. 12mo. London, Aldermay Church-yard, n. d.

An abridgement from the larger history by Deloney, 4to. 1632, which has been reprinted by Mr. Thoms. On the title is the annexed cut of a barber's shop:—



It is a curious illustration of the old custom of the person who was waiting for his turn playing on the ghittern. There are innumerable allusions to this practice in our old dramatists:—"A barber's cittern for every serving-man to play upon", Dekker's *Honest Whore*, Second Part, 1630. Stubbes, 1583, mentioning barbers and shaving, says:—"You shall have also your orient perfumes for your nose, your fragrant



waters for your face, wherewith you shall bee all to be-sprinkled: your *musicke* againe and pleasant harmonie shall sound in your eares, and all to tickle the same with vaine delight."

21. THE HISTORY OF LAWRENCE LAZY, containing his Birth and slothful breeding; how he served the Schoolmaster, his Wife, the Squire's Cook, and the Farmer, which, by the laws of Lubberland, was accounted High Treason; his Arraignment and Trial, and happy deliverance from the many treasons laid to his charge. 12mo. London, Aldermay Church-yard, n. d.

The following are the titles of the chapters:—1. Of his birth and heavy breeding, and of his being carried to school. 2. Of Lawrence's falling asleep in a grove, and so losing his walking mates; of his meeting with an old man, who gave him a charm with which he wrought many wonders. 3. How Lawrence served his master, and then made his escape. 4. Of his causing a gentleman's cook to lose his place. 5. The trick he served a country farmer, who would not give him the least morsel of meat. 6. Lawrence is taken and sent to Lubberland Castle. 7. Lawrence's Trial in the Town-hall of Never-work, and of his coming off at last with flying colours. This edition was printed about 1780, but it was a much earlier production, and is thus alluded to in a curious MS., called *Great Britan's Honycombe*, 1712:—"There was a gentleman that had two sons: the one was gifted to rise very early in the morning, and goe out about his lawfull



occasions; and his other son, having too much blood of the *Lawrences* in him, which occasioned a very lazy habit in him that he could not finde in his heart to rise in a morning before ten or eleven of the clock, notwithstanding his father's often calling him, which availed nothing, for *Lawrence* had made too deep an impression into his constitution."

22. DOCTOR MERRYMAN, OR NOTHING BUT MIRTH, being a Poesy of Pleasant Poems and Witty Jest. 12mo. London, Bow-Church Yard, n. d.

This piece is copied from an old work, called "Democritus, or Doctor Merryman his medecines against melancholy humors, written by S. R. : Printed for John Deane, and are to be sold at his shop at Temple-barre under the gate", n. d., but entered on the registers of the Stationers' Company, Oct. 24th, 1607. There was also an edition in 1681, 4to. This is by Samuel Rowlands, the author of various other pieces. There are some omissions in this tract, and the two pieces at the end, the *Savage* and the *Beggars*, are not in the original edition. I extract the following, chiefly because it contains the remarkable phrase "naked gull," affording a better example of it than the commentators have produced. See *Timon of Athens*, act ii, scene 1.

A country fellow had a dream  
 which did his mind amaze ;  
 And starting up he wakes his wife,  
 and thus to her he says :

O, woman, rise and help your goose,  
 for even the best we have  
 Is presently at point to die,  
 unless her life you save.  
 On either side of her I see  
 an hungry fox doth sit ;  
 But staying upon courtesy,  
 who shall begin first bit.  
 Husband, quoth she, if this be all,  
 I can your dream expound ;  
 The perfect meaning of the same  
 I instantly have found.  
 The goose betwixt two foxes plac'd,  
 which in your dream you saw,  
 Is you yourself that proves a goose,  
 in going still to law.  
 On either side a lawyer sits,  
 and they do feathers pull ;  
 That in the end you will be found  
 a bare and *naked gull* !  
 Wife, in good truth, said he, I think  
 thou art just in the right ;  
 My purse can witness to my grief  
 how they begin to bite.

23. A PLEASANT AND DELIGHTFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN HONEST JOHN AND LOVING KATE, with the contrivance of their marriage, and way to get a livelihood.

Readers, here's a loving pair  
 Shortly to be married are ;  
 Honest John and loving Kate  
 To each other prove a mate ;  
 I wish them both in joy to live,  
 Since heart to each other give.

12mo. Leicester, c. 1760.



24. AN EXCELLENT DIALOGUE BETWEEN HONEST JOHN AND LOVING KATE, containing not only their wooing, but also their wedding, to the satisfaction and good liking of their friends.

Some wooing was in the first part,  
 But now their join'd both hand and heart  
 In wedlock's bands, to the great joy  
 Of all their friends ; tho' Kate was coy  
 At first, at length she granted love,  
 And does a constant woman prove.

12mo. Leicester, c. 1760.

It is clear, from the allusions to manners and customs, that these two pieces were composed at least as early as the time of Charles II. In one part, Kate says, " Good lack, they will keep such ado when they come to eat the sack-posset, and taking their leaves of us, and throwing the stocking, and one thing or other, that I shall wish them all far enough."

25. THE UNFORTUNATE LOVERS, OR THE HISTORY OF ARGALUS AND PARTHENIA. In four books, adorn'd with cuts. The fifth edition. 12mo. London, n. d.

This tale is taken from Sir Philip Sidney's *Arcadia*, and was exceedingly popular. It is frequently mentioned in Scott's novel of *Peveiril of the Peak*.

26. THE HISTORY OF ARGALUS AND PARTHENIA, being a choice Flower gathered out of Sir Philip Sidney's rare Garden. 12mo. Printed in the year 1788.

Abridged in pp. 24, with wood-cuts.

27. THE HONOUR OF CHIVALRY, OR THE FAMOUS AND DELECTABLE HISTORY OF DON BELLIANIS OF GREECE, containing the valient Exploits of that magnanimous and heroick Prince, son unto the Emperor Don Bellaneo of Greece; wherein are described the strange and dangerous adventures that befel him, with his Love towards the Princess Florisbella, daughter to the Soldan of Babylon. 12mo. London, c. 1710.

Contains 168 pages, including title and preface, and sixteen cuts. Larger editions, in quarto, were published in 1650, 1673, and 1703. This romance is mentioned by Meres, 1598, as then popular.

28. THE RENOWNED HISTORY OF VALENTINE AND ORSON, THE TWO SONS OF THE EMPEROR OF GREECE, newly corrected and amended. Adorn'd with Cuts. 12mo. London, 1724.

This romance was published at Lyon in 1495, under the title of "Le Roman des deux nobles et vaillans Chevaliers, Valentin et Orson, fils de l'Empereur de Grece, et nepveux du très vaillant et redoubté roy Pepin, jadis Roi de France," fol. ; and again at a very early period at Paris by N. Bonfons, 4to. An edition in Italian appeared at Venice in 1558. The incident of the wooden horse of Pacolet, in this romance, is taken from *L'Histoire de Clamadés et Clarmonde*, which was printed at Lyon by Jean de la Fontaine in 1488, and is a much earlier production. Dr. Farmer possessed a fragment of a very old edition, probably printed by Wynken de Worde, and an edition by Copland is in existence. In 1586, Thomas



Purfoot had a license to print "the old booke of Valentine and Orson." The printer of the edition of 1649, in his preface, says, "The history here written was translated out of French into English, above 100 years ago, by one Henry Watson, and since that time it hath by him been corrected, and put into a more plyant stile, and so followed on to the presse till this present edition."

29. Another edition. 8vo. London, 1736.

This is called on the title the sixteenth edition. It is illustrated with cuts and a frontispiece.

30. THE MAD PRANKS OF TOM TRAM, SON-IN-LAW TO MOTHER WINTER; whereunto is added his Merry Jests, Odd Conceits, and pleasant Tales, very delightful to read. In three parts. 12mo. London, n. d.

A perfect copy of an original edition of the three parts of this history is very difficult to meet with. The present was formed from no less than four imperfect copies. At the end of the second part is the following notice:—"Reader, the last time that I saw Tom, he was at the Half Moon, where we drank each of us a pint of sack to rub up his attention, and he promised the next mad pranks he played, he would send them up to Tom Long the Carrier; which promise, being now fulfilled, it is now published." The following are the contents of the chapters of the first part:—1. Tom's pedigree, and the cause of his whipping the pots to death. 2. Of Tom's displeasing the



mayor, though he did what he bid him. 3. Shewing how Tom served his hostess and a tobacco-seller. 4. Shewing how he paid the man for his horse-hire. 5. How Tom served some gentlemen. 6. Tom rides a-gossiping. 7. Tom's trick on some gypsies. 8. Of Tom's selling his master's trivot, and cheating an old man. 9. The usage of Tom to a singing-man in the West. 10. Of Tom's courtship and marriage with Cicely Summer, the neat maid of the West.—Then follow some tales unconnected with the history. The chapters of the second part are entitled: 1. Tom binds himself apprentice, and of what means he used to get from his master. 2. Of old Mother Winter's marriage, and what pranks Tom played. 3. Tom takes the rag-man that stole the goose. 4. Tom goes a hedging. 5. Of Tom's going to fetch the plough-irons from the smiths. 6. Tom's father sends him for a dog, and of what happened. 7. Tom's mother sends him to market for a leg of mutton. 8. Tom's father sends him to thrash corn, and what happened. 9. Tom is sent to invite the guests to eat the swine and geese he had killed. 10. Tom makes his father break his shins. 11. Tom and his father go to the fair to buy horses. 12. Of his taking leave of his parents, and going to seek his fortune. 13. He gets five pounds for preventing a man from being made a cuckold. 14. How Tom saved a gentleman five hundred pounds.—The contents of the third part are entitled: 1. Of Tom's getting forty-five wenches with child, and his escape from the constable. 2. Tom hires himself to a mounte-



bank, and cures a country squire of a consumption. 3. Of Tom and his master's progress, with what happened on their journey. 4. Of Tom's further proceedings on the journey with his master. 5. Tom's revenge on his master for making him lose his dinner. 6. The method Tom took with his master to get his wages. 7. Tom hires himself to a justice, and what pranks he played while he was his servant. 8. Tom gains the love of his master and all the family. 9. Tom's revenge on the usurer for complaining to his master. 10. Tom marries the lady's waiting-woman, and has by her an only daughter. The following specimen of this very singular work may suffice to give an idea of the nature of the whole:—

*Of Tom and his Master's progress, with what happened on their journey.*—Now the doctor and his man Tom being on the road together, Tom said, Methinks it is melancholy riding; if you are willing, we will make verses to divert the time. With all my heart, says the mountebank; and accordingly, being near Abindon, he began thus:

God-a-mercy Abingdon,  
 God-a-mercy O!  
 Thou hast a spire  
 Like the sheath of a dagger.

Rarely well done, quoth Tom. The master replied, Now it is your turn. At which Tom began thus:

God-a-mercy master,  
 God-a-mercy O!  
 You have a head  
 Like unto a brass kettle.

Why, you impudent rascal, said his master, do you compare my head unto a brass kettle? After this they rode silent for the remaining part of the day; the doctor, being in the dumps, would not speak or explain himself; nor would he permit Tom to remain in his presence at night. Tom passed away the time as well as he could till morning, when the chamberlain\* came to Tom to know if his master chose to have a fire in his room? Yes, says Tom, but he will have no one to make it but myself. Then taking a brush under his arm, and a faggot on his shoulder, he went up, saying, as he entered the room,

Good-morrow, master,  
 Good-morrow, ho!  
 I have brought a faggot  
 Into your chamber, O!

Well, look you there, said his master, this is something like. Could not you have made this verse yesterday? But on the contrary, you must compare my understanding head to a brass kettle. Well, for this verse I will pardon you, but be sure take care how you commit the like again.

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\* The steward or head-waiter at an inn. The antiquity of Tom Tram is shown by its phraseology. Thus we have the word *mome*, a foolish fellow, which occurs in the *Comedy of Errors*, iii, 1:—

My mother is to be married, they say,  
 Old foolish doating *moam*!  
 While I fantastick tricks do play;  
 She'd better have staid at home.

*Mad Pranks of Tom Tram*, part ii, ch. 2.



At the end of the history are the following verses :

He liv'd till he was eighty years of age,  
 When death at last with darts did him engage,  
 So that he fainted ; pangs came thick and stronger,  
 And then he dy'd, 'cause he could live no longer.  
 The last words he said,—Let this be sent  
 To London, that it may be put in print.

There can be no doubt but that Tom Tram was written in the seventeenth century, although no copy has been noticed of so early a date. It was very popular in the following century. An edition in my possession, printed at Newcastle about 1770, has a cut on the title of the second part, with the boy saying, "O, Parson, have I caught you." It continued to be republished within the last thirty or forty years, for I have an abridged edition printed at Falkirk by T. Johnston, 1817.

31. THE FAMOUS AND MEMORABLE HISTORY OF THE TWO UNFORTUNATE THO' NOBLE LOVERS, HERO AND LEANDER, giving an account of all that happened from the beginning of their loves, till both of them ended their lives in the sea for each other. Together with their various adventures, and the renowned atchievements of Leander, in his many glorious Victories and Successes, till he was forbid access to fair Hero by her cruel Father, upon his killing his rival in a combat. Also how (she being imprisoned in a Tower) he swam over the Sea to visit her, and in a monstrous storm was drowned ; for sorrow of which she leaped into the waves and drowned herself. Sm. 4to. Newcastle, n. d.

Ten leaves, with wood-cuts on title. This is the



earliest popular history that I recollect as having been printed at Newcastle, one of the great emporiums of such pieces in the eighteenth century. On the back of the title is an epistle to the reader by J. S.

32. THE RENOWNED HISTORY OF THE SEVEN CHAMPIONS OF CHRISTENDOM, showing their valiant Exploits both by sea and land, their combating with Giants, Monsters, Lions, and Dragons; their Tilts and Tournaments in honour of their Mistresses; their overcoming Magicians and Necromancers, putting an end to their direful enchantments; their knighthoods, chivalry, and magnificent prowess against the Enemies of Christ, and in honour of Christendom, in Europe, Asia, and Africa. To which is added the true manner of their Deaths, and how they came to be entituled the Seven Saints of Christendom. Illustrated with a variety of pictures. Sm. 4to. London, printed by Tho. Norris, at the Looking-glass on London-bridge, n. d.

Twelve leaves, with a large wood-cut of St. George and the Dragon on the title-page. On the reverse of the title are three stanzas, entitled *the Author's muse upon the History*. The first part was published in 1596, and the second shortly afterwards. It was censured by Meres in 1598. It is chiefly a compilation from Bevis, Guy, and other old English romances; and, according to the quaint language of Ritson, contains "all the lyes of Christendom in one lye."

33. THE HISTORY OF THE BLIND BEGGER OF BEDNAL GREEN. Licensed and enter'd according to order. Printed for T. Norris at the Looking-Glass on London-bridge, n. d.



This is one of the rarest of the histories published by Norris at the commencement of the last century. The present copy formerly belonged to Sir Francis Freeling. On the title is a large wood-cut, entitled, "Young Monford riding to the wars, where he unhappily lost his eye-sight." It consists of twelve leaves, and has seventeen wood-cuts, one of which is a rude view of London. It is in prose, with the Blind Beggar's song at the end. Pepys, in his *Diary*, June 26th, 1663, says the house at Bethnal Green, then occupied by Sir W. Rider, "was built by the blind beggar of Bednall Green, so much talked of and sang in ballads, but they say it was only some of the outhouses of it."

34. THE MOST FAMOUS HISTORY OF THE LEARNED FRYER BACON, shewing his Parentage and Birth, how he came to be a scholar and to study art-magick, with the many wonderful things he did in his life-time, to the amazement of the whole world, in making a brazen head to have walled all England with Brass : With his penitent death. Also, the merry Waggeries of his man Miles, and the Exploits of Vandermaster, a German, and Fryer Bungy, an English Conjuror; with the manner of their woful deaths, as a warning to others. Being all very profitable and pleasant to the Reader. London, Printed for Tho. Norris at the sign of the Looking-glass on London-bridge, n. d.

Twelve leaves, with a wood-cut of the brazen head and Friar Bacon on the title-page.

35. THE HISTORY OF THE EVER-RENOUNDED KNIGHT DON QUIXOTE DE LA MANCHA, containing his



many wonderful and admirable achievements and adventures, with the pleasant humours of his trusty Squire, Sancha Pancha : Being very comical and diverting. London, Printed by and for W. O., and sold by H. Green at the Sun and Bible on London-bridge, n. d.

Twelve leaves, with wood-cuts. This is, perhaps, the earliest chap-book edition of *Don Quixote*.

36. THE VOYAGES AND TRAVELS OF THAT RENOWNED CAPTAIN, SIR FRANCIS DRAKE, INTO THE WEST INDIES, AND ROUND ABOUT THE WORLD : giving a perfect relation of his strange adventures, and many wonderful discoveries, his fight with the Spaniard, and many barbarous nations ; his description of monsters, and monstrous people, with many other remarkable passages not before extent, contained in the history of his Life and Death ; both pleasant and profitable to the Reader. Printed by C. B. and J. F., and sold by E. Tracy at the Three Bibles on London-bridge, n. d.

Twelve leaves, with a wood-cut of a ship on the title. This was a very popular chap-book, and frequently republished.

37. THE HISTORY OF FAIR ROSAMOND, MISTRESS TO HENRY II, AND JANE SHORE, CONCUBINE TO EDWARD IV, KINGS OF ENGLAND, shewing how they came to be so, with their lives, remarkable actions, and unhappy ends. Extracted from eminent records, and the whole illustrated with cuts suitable to each subject. 12mo. London, Printed by and for T. Norris at the Looking-glass on London-bridge, 1717.

Contains pp. 156, exclusive of title and preface, four leaves :—History of Fair Rosamond, p. 1 ; a Song on



the death of Fair Rosamond, p. 79; History of Jane Shore, p. 83; a Song of the supposed Ghost of Shore's wife, to the tune of *Live with me*. It is illustrated with cuts, and a frontispiece containing two, with copies of verses. The song on Rosamond is quite different from Deloney's ballad printed by Percy. It commences—

In Woodstock bower once grew a flower  
Beloved of England's king ;  
The like for scent and sweet content  
Did never in England spring.

The song of *Jane Shore's Ghost* thus commences:—

Dame Nature's darling let me be,  
The map of sad calamity ;  
For never none, like Shore's fair wife,  
Had badder end, nor better life.

“ The gentler breasts of the virginities of London,” says Gayton, 1654, “ are compassionately mov'd, if a ballad of Jane Shore be reviv'd, or any figment new raised.”

38. THE MOST PLEASING AND DELIGHTFUL HISTORY OF REYNARD THE FOX, AND REYNARDINE HIS SON, in two parts; to which is added the History of Cawood the Rook, or the Assembly of Birds, with the several speeches they made to the Eagle in hopes to have the government in his absence. 12mo. London, 1735.

With frontispiece and cuts, pp. 154. It is common as a penny history, abridged into twenty-four pages.

39. THE NEW HISTORY OF THE TROJAN WARS, AND TROY'S DESTRUCTION, in four books: containing

an account of the Birth, Life, Death, and glorious Actions of the mighty Hercules of Greece; the renowned and valiant Deeds of the most famous Hector of Troy; the Rape of fair Helen of Greece, together with the last destruction of Troy by the stratagem of the Wooden Horse; the Arrival of Brute in Britain, and how he conquered Albion and his giants, and built Troynovant, now London. 12mo. London, Printed for C. Bates at the Sun and Bible in Pye-Corner, 1728.

At the end is a tragi-comedy called the *Siege of Troy*, a drama by Settle, which was acted in Mrs. Mynn's booth in Bartholomew Fair. The frontispiece is a picture of Hercules, under which are the following verses:—

Behold the mighty Hercules, whose name  
And glorious actions fill the trump of Fame :  
He hydras, tyrants, lions does destroy,  
And saves the daughter of the king of Troy.

The original of this, many times removed, will be found in the works of Dares Phrygius, Dictys Creten-sis, and Guido de Colonna's *Historia de Bello Trojano*, the last of which was written about 1260. The two first are well known to be early forgeries.

40. THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE MOST RENOWNED Q. ELIZABETH AND THE E. OF ESSEX. By a person of quality. 12mo. Cologne, Printed for Will with the Wisp at the Sign of the Moon in the Ecliptick, n. d.

It is unnecessary to say that this imprint is merely farcical, and we find from the reverse of the frontispiece that it was "printed for James Hodges at the Looking-glass on London-bridge."



41. THE RIGHT PLEASANT, AND VARIABLE TRACHICAL HISTORY OF FORTUNATUS, whereby a young man may learn how to behave himself in all worldly affairs and casual chances. First penned in the Dutch tongue, there-hence abstracted, and now first of all published in English by T. C. 12mo. London, printed by T. B. for Hanna Sawbridge, at the sign of the Bible on Ludgate-hill, near Fleet-bridge, 1682.

In black letter, with wood-cuts. Verses at the back of title, entitled, "the moral documents and considerations which are to be noted in this book." Then follows a preface, and next, "the sum and argument of this book," in verse. At the end is the following memorandum :—"This book, having found very good acceptance for many impressions, some ill-minded persons, and particularly one Thomas Haley, has printed a counterfeit impression in quarto, therein falsifying the original, and endeavouring to deprive the true proprietor of the copy; therefore let the buyer take heed of cheating himself, and encouraging such base practices, the true copy being in octavo, and so sold by H. Sawbridge at the Bible on Ludgate-hill." T. C. is for Thomas Churchyard. The fourth edition appeared in 1702. A German edition was published at Vienna in 1509, 4to.

No English edition earlier than the present, is, I believe, known to exist, but it was certainly printed before 1600, and most of the cuts in the present copy are old, some of them exhibiting the worm-holes of the original blocks. The tale is mentioned by Henry Croke in *Vertues Commonwealth, or the Highway to*



*Honour*, 4to. 1602; and many years before, Meredith Hanmer, in the epistle dedicatory to his translation of Eusebius, 1577, speaks of "the stories of King Arthur, the monstrous fables of Garagantua, the Hundred Merry Tales, Skoggan, *Fortunatus*, with many other infortunate treatises." *The History of Fortunatus* was entered on June 22nd, 1615, with other copies, to Mr. Field. Taylor, the water-poet, in his *Workes*, 1630, iii, 99, says of a traveller in Germany, "he must have *Fortunatus* or a prince his purse, that must be, like a drunkard's dagger, ever drawne, to pay bountifully for such wash and graines as his valiant stomacke hath overcome, conquered, and devoured."



The above cut is taken from p. 155, and represents Andolocia in prison, seated in a pair of stocks, and the Earl Theodorus strangling him. Mr. Fairholt has kindly furnished me with the following remarks on



the cuts in this volume:—"The cuts in the *History of Fortunatus*, 1682, are certainly not the work of English artists, and are very much older than that date. It was not at all unusual for English publishers of popular stories to obtain their illustrations abroad; and as this work is stated in the title-page to be 'first penned in the Dutch tongue,' it is by no means improbable that the cuts were obtained in Holland or Germany, where the art of book illustration principally flourished. The cuts, however, are not uniformly good, nor are they all by the same hand. I should be inclined to think that the publisher obtained as many as he could, and then had the others copied by an inferior hand at home. Wood-engravers from the Low Countries resided in England and pursued their avocations here in the time of James to Charles I; and Evelyn in his *Sculptura*, 1662, says: 'we have likewise Switzer for cutting in wood, the son of a father who sufficiently discovered his dexterity in the herbals set forth by Mr. Parkinson, Lobel, and others.' He also engraved the cuts in Speed's *History of Britaine*, fol., 1611. He was a very tame and poor engraver; but wood engraving at the close of the sixteenth century had greatly declined. The better cuts in *Fortunatus* are certainly executed earlier: the costume of the women in particular is peculiarly German. From the peculiarities of their style and drawing they appear to be the work of Jost Amman, who was born at Zurich in 1539, removed to Nuremberg in 1560, and died there in 1591. During the thirty years in which he resided in that city, he



appears to have been busily employed in making designs on wood for the booksellers of Nuremberg and Frankfort ; but though he excelled as a painter on glass, and furnished designs for goldsmiths, book illustration appears to have been his chief employment, and which he practised so industriously, that his works amount to a far greater number than have yet been recorded.”

42. THE HISTORY OF FORTUNATUS, setting forth his birth, life, travels, and adventures in most parts of the world ; how the Lady Fortune appeared to him, and gave him a rich purse that never wanted money ; and also, in his travels, how he got from the Soldan a wishing-hat, that by putting it on his head, he could convey himself immediately into whatever place he desired. With an account how Fortunatus, on his death-bed, declared to his two sons, Ampedo and Andolocia, the virtue of his purse and hat. 12mo. Glasgow, 1790.

An abridgement of the last article, in the form of a penny merriment.

43. THE HISTORY OF JACK AND THE GIANTS. 12mo. n. d. The Second Part of Jack and the Giants, giving a full account of his victorious Conquests over the North Country Giants, destroying the enchanted castle kept by Galligantus, dispers'd the fiery griffins, put the conjuror to flight, and released not only many knights and ladies, but likewise a Duke's daughter, to whom he was honourably married. 12mo. Newcastle, 1711.

With rude cuts illustrating the principal events related in the history. I am not acquainted with any edition of *Jack the Giant-killer* earlier than the pre-



sent one, but it was certainly composed at least a century before, and there can be but little doubt of its being alluded to in *King Lear*, act iii, scene 4. In the present edition, the lines quoted by Edgar are given as follows, and it will be perceived they are nearer the words in Shakespeare than those in later copies quoted by the commentators:—

Fe, fi, fo, fum,  
I smell the blood of an English Man :  
Be he alive, or be he dead,  
I'll grind his bones to make me bread.

And in Nash's *Have with you to Saffron Walden*, 1596, mention is made of "a precious apothegmaticall pedant, who will finde matter inough to dilate a whole daye of the first invention of

Fy, fa, fum,  
I smell the bloud of an Englishman !"

See remarks on the similarity of this history to legends of other countries, in Keightley's *Tales and Popular Fictions*, 1834.

44. THE BIRTH, LIFE, AND DEATH OF JOHN FRANKS, WITH THE PRANKS AND JESTS HE PLAY'D, THOUGH A MEER FOOL. 12mo. London, Bow-Church Yard, n. d.

These pretty jests you here will read,  
Were from an innocent indeed :  
Such pretty pranks were never known,  
As oftentimes John Franks has shewn :  
Some men are fools only in show,  
But this a fool all men did know ;  
Belov'd he was of ev'ry one,  
And when he dy'd there was great moan.

We are here informed that "John Franks, the reputed son of John Ward, was born at Much Easton in Essex, within three miles of Dunmow: he had no friends to take care of him, but his being such a fool was the cause of his well-being, for every one was in love with the sport he made. When he was grown to be of man's stature, there was a worthy knight, who took him to keep, where he did very many and strange pranks. He was a comely person, and had a good complexion; his hair was of a dark flaxen: he was of a middle stature, and good countenance. If his tongue had not betrayed his folly, no one but would think he had been a wise man." At the end it is stated, "He lived about fourscore years, and died in a knight's house in Enfield parish, where he was handsomely buried; all that knew him being sorry for his death, poor soul, who had never done evil, but through evil example." We cannot say much for the wittiness of the jests, but give as an example one chapter, which is illustrated with a wood-cut of a farmer playing at the game of blind-man's-buff.

Chap. v.—*How Jack deceived Mr. Sorrel, a rich Yeoman, of puddings and links that hung up in his chimney.*—Jack was often upon the ramble, and one day he went up to this yeoman's house, who loved much to make sport with him. The servants being all busy, some in the barn, and some abroad amongst the cattle, and only him and the fool together; 'Mr. Sorrel,' says Jack, 'shall we play at blind-man's-buff?' 'Ay



faith,' saith he, 'with all my heart, Jack.' 'You shall be blinded,' says Jack. 'That I will, Jack,' said he. So, pinning a napkin about his eye and head, 'Now, turn about,' says Jack; 'but you see, Mr. Sorrel, you see.' 'No, good faith, Jack,' saith he, 'I do not see.' Jack shuffled up and down the kitchen in order to catch him, and still cried, 'You see, Mr. Sorrel, you see.' But when the fool perceived that he did not see, he went to the chimney, and whipt down some of the puddings into his pockets, and thus he continued to do whenever he came to the end of the room, till he had filled both his pockets and breeches with them, which was soon done, for they were large and he was very quick. The doors being open, Jack runs away as fast as he could, leaving the good man blinded, who, wondering he did not hear the fool, cried, 'Jack, Jack!' but finding no answer, he pulled off the napkin, and seeing the fool was gone, and that he had also taken many of the links and puddings with him, he was so enraged that he sent his bloodhounds after him, which when Jack perceived, he takes a pudding and flings it at them; the dogs smelling to the pudding, Jack gained ground the time, and still as the dogs pursued him, he threw a pudding at them; and thus he did till he came to an house.

This was spread abroad, to the shame and vexation of the farmer.

It happen'd, some time after, that Mr. Sorrel, among other tenants, went to pay their respects to the lord where Jack then lived. Jack espying him, went



and told his lady that Mr. Sorrel was come. The lady being afraid that the fool might offend him by speaking of the puddings, threaten'd him, saying, 'Sirrah, if you speak of the puddings you shall be whipt.' 'No,' says Jack, 'I will not.'

But when the lord and lady were at dinner, and Mr. Sorrel and the rest with them, Jack went to Mr. Sorrel and shak'd him by the hand, saying, 'How is it, Mr. Sorrel?' Then, whispering to him as it were, but hollowed so loud that all the company heard him, 'Mr. Sorrel,' says Jack, 'not a word of the puddings, Mr. Sorrel,' at which they all burst into a laughter; but the honest man was so much ashamed, that the company were sorry to see, and he never came there any more. Ever since it is a byword to say, 'Not a word of the puddings'.

45. THE NOBLE AND RENOWNED HISTORY OF GUY EARL OF WARWICK, containing a full and true Account of his many famous and valiant Actions, remarkable and brave Exploits, and noble and renowned Victories: Also his courtship to fair Phœlice, Earl Roband's daughter and heiress, and the many difficulties and hazards he went thorow to obtain her love. Extracted from authentick Records, and the whole illustrated with cuts suitable to the History. 12mo. London, Printed by W. O. for E. B., and sold by A. Bettesworth at the sign of the Red Lion on London-bridge. 1706.

Dedicated by G. L. "to his honour'd and worthy friend, Mr. Zachariah Hayward, citizen of London." Then follows a "Poem in praise of the following



History." At the end is, "An old Song of the valiant Deeds of Chivalry atchiev'd by the noble Knight Sir Guy of Warwick, &c. Tune, *Was ever man*":—

Was ever knight for lady's sake  
 So tost in love as I, Sir Guy ?  
 For Philis fair, that lady bright,  
 As ever man beheld with eye.  
 She gave me leave myself to try  
 The valiant knight with shield and spear,  
 Ere that her love she would grant me,  
 Which made me venture far and near.

This tale was dramatized early in the seventeenth century, and Taylor mentions having seen it acted at the Maidenhead in Islington:—"After supper we had a play of the life and death of Guy of Warwicke, played by the Right Honourable the Earle of Darbie his men".—*Pennilesse Pilgrimage*, ed. 1630, p. 140.

46. THE FIRST PART OF THE HISTORY OF THE KING AND COBLER, shewing how Henry VIII used to visit the watches in the city, his acquaintance with a merry cobbler, how he was entertain'd in the Cobbler's cellar, and what had like to have befallen him there. 12mo. Newcastle, Printed by John White, n. d.

The King and the Cobbler: the Second Part. 12mo.

This is one of the numerous popular tales in which the sovereign is represented as visiting the humble subject in disguise. Ch. 1. How K. Henry VIII used to visit the watches in the city, and how he became acquainted with a merry jovial cobbler. 2. How the cobbler entertain'd the King in his cellar, and of the disturbance they had like to have had by his wife

Joan. 3. How the cobbler prepar'd himself to go to court, and how he was set out after the best manner by his wife Joan. 4. The cobbler's reception at court, with the manner of his behaviour before the King. 5. The cobbler's entertainment in the King's cellar, how he met with his new friend Harry Tudor, and how he came to know him to be the King. 5. How the cobbler became a courtier.—Second Part, Chap. 1. Of the cobbler's return from court to his wife Joan, and of the comical discourse that past between them. 2. How the Queen, upon hearing much mirth at court, came with her maids of honour to know the cause thereof, and how Cardinal Wolsey, that proud prelate, curbed the King for being, as he said, too free with a poor cobbler. 3. How the cobbler the next morning was thunderstruck by his wife, and how upon singing a new song which he had made, she at once took him to *coram nobis*; with many other things very remarkable. 4. How the King took to himself the title of a tanner, and came to the cobbler to sell him a piece of leather, and how the Queen, in the disguise of a country maid, passed for his kinswoman who wanted service, with other passages of very much mirth. 5. How the King invited the cobbler and his wife to dinner, and the discourse that passed thereupon. 6. How the cobbler was put in fear of his life, and how he came off with flying colours.

The king died first, the cobbler followed after,  
But not till he had often fill'd the court with laughter.



The King pensions the cobbler by a grant of land worth £50 per annum :—

Thou shalt have fifty-pounds a year in land,  
Which lies upon the south side of the Strand ;  
I am the royal giver, thou the taker,  
And I will have it call'd the Cobbler's Acre.

47. COCK ROBIN, a pretty gilded Toy for either Girl or Boy, suited to children of all ages. 12mo. Aldermary Church-yard, n. d.

48. THE TRAGICAL DEATH OF A, APPLE PYE, who was cut in pieces and eat by twenty-five gentlemen, with whom all little people ought to be very well acquainted. 12mo. Aldermary Church-yard, n. d.

The earliest notice of this popular tract I have met with occurs in Eachard's *Observations upon the answer to an Enquiry into the grounds and occasions of the Contempt of the Clergy*, 8vo. 1671, p. 160 :—" Why not A apple-pasty, B bak'd it, C cut it, D divided it, E eat it, F fought for it, G got it," etc.

49. THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT, a diverting story for Children of all ages ; and the history of Gog and Magog. 12mo. Aldermary Church-yard, n. d.

These three tracts are of a very small size, with cuts. It may be worth while to observe, that all the Aldermary Church-yard books of this kind are now very rarely met with. The present was printed about 1780, and I have another edition printed in Long-lane, in the year 1809.

50. THE FAMOUS HISTORY of the VALIANT LONDON PRENTICE, shewing his noble Exploits at home and abroad, together with his Love and great Success, very pleasant and delightful. Written for the encouragement of youth by J. S. 12mo. Licensed and entered according to order, n. d.

The story will easily be collected from the titles of the chapters.—1. An account of his birth, education, and early valour, etc. 2. An account of his first adventures and enterprizes, and how he won the virgin hearts, etc. 3. How the fair Lucinda fell in love with him, and how those she despised for his sake conspired against him. 4. How they attempted to destroy Aurelius, but were overcome, and left naked in the wood. 5. How his father put him an apprentice to a merchant, and the leave he took of Lucinda. 6. How he gained the love of his master, and became enamoured of Dorinda, his fair daughter. 7. How he got leave to go for Turkey, and what ensued. 8. How he arrived in Turkey, and of his reception; how he overthrew the Turk, and killed a Turkish prince. 8. How he destroyed two lions prepared to devour him, and had the king's only daughter in marriage.—The ballad of the *London Prentice*, printed by Evans, iii, 178, is on the same story. See also Mackay's *Songs*, p. 22.

51. THE FRYAR AND BOY, or the Young Piper's Pleasant Pastime, containing the witty adventures betwixt the Fryar and Boy in relation to his step-mother, whom he fairly fitted for her unmerciful cruelty. 12mo. Newcastle, c. 1760.

In two parts, with cuts, one of which, at p. 15, appears



to be a very early one. The second part is entitled, "The Merry Piper, or the second part of the Fryar and Boy, containing a further progress of Jack's frolicksome intrigues; full of Mirth and Reception." The first part is founded on the old tale of the *Frere and the Boy*, printed in Ritson's *Ancient Popular Poetry*, 1791, p. 35; and by Mr. Wright, 12mo. 1836. The second part is not in the older tale. It relates the manner of Jack obtaining three formidable gifts, which he employs unmercifully against everybody he meets with. The popularity of this history has continued to the present day, having been reprinted in the North of England within the last five years.

52. THE PLEASANT HISTORY OF JACK HORNER, containing his witty Tricks and pleasant Pranks which he play'd from his youth to his riper years, right pleasant and delightful for winter and summer's recreation. 12mo. Newcastle, c. 1760.

A curious history, the sixth chapter of which, "Jack's kindness to his old friend the inn-keeper, whom he put in the way to pay his debts," is founded on the *Tale of a Basin*, printed by Mr. Wright from a manuscript of the fourteenth century, 12mo. 1836. The commencement appears to furnish the origin of a popular nursery rhyme:—

" Jack Horner was a pretty lad,  
Near London he did dwell;  
His father's heart he made full glad,  
His mother lov'd him well.  
A pretty boy of curious wit,  
All people spoke his praise,

And in the corner would he sit  
 In Christmas holy-days :  
 When friends they did together meet,  
 To pass away the time,  
 Why, little Jack, he sure would eat  
 His Christmas-pye in rhyme,  
 And said, Jack Horner, in the corner,  
 Eats good Christmas pye,  
 And with his thumb pulls out the plumb,  
 And said, Good boy am I !”

With regard to his stature, we are told,—

“Thus few was like him far and nigh,  
 When he to age was come,  
 As being thirteen inches high,  
 A giant to Tom Thumb !”

53. THE WHOLE LIFE AND MERRY EXPLOITS OF BOLD ROBIN HOOD, EARL OF HUNTINGDON, shewing how he became an outlaw, and fled to the forest of Sherwood, where he and his gang shelter'd themselves for many years, committing many notorious Villanies and Robberies, insomuch that all passengers were forc'd to pay them tribute; and at last he betook himself to a monastery in Yorkshire, where he was bled to death by a Monk. To which are added several songs not in the former impressions. With the whole History of Johnny Armstrong of Westmoreland. With cuts adapted to each story. 12mo. London, printed for S. Crowder, at the Looking-glass on London-bridge, 1759.

Prose histories, with a frontispiece of Robin Hood, and numerous cuts. At the end is a “Collection of Songs concerning Robin Hood,” and a “Song shewing how Johnny Armstrong, and his eight score men, fought a bloody battle with the Scotch king at Edin-



burgh.” The prose history of Robin Hood occupies ninety pages.

54. THE HISTORY OF ROBIN HOOD, and of all the notable Exploits performed by him and his Merry Men. 12mo. Manchester, n. d.

In prose and verse, sixteen pages.

55. A TRUE TALE OF ROBIN HOOD, setting forth the Life and Death of that renowned outlaw Robert Earl of Huntington, carefully collected out of the truest writers of our English chronicles, and published for the satisfaction of all who desire to have Truth from Falsehood. By Martin Parker, gent. 12mo. Newcastle, n. d.

This is a later copy, with a few verbal variations, of the poem under the same title printed in Mr. Gutch's *Robin Hood*, vol. ii, p. 88.

56. THE LIFE AND DEATH OF ST. GEORGE, THE NOBLE CHAMPION OF ENGLAND. 12mo. London, Aldermay Church-yard, n. d.

Ch. 1. Of the birth of St. George, and how he was brought up. 2. Of St. George's arrival in Egypt, of his killing a dragon, and many other wonderful achievements. 3. Of St. George getting out of prison, and releasing St. David. 4. St. George regains Sabra. 5. Sabra and St. George's death, with the occasions thereof. “'Twas very proper for these saints to alight at the sign of Saint George, who slew the dragon which was to prey upon the virgin; the truth of which story hath been abus'd by his own countrymen, who almost

deny all the particulars of it, as I have read in a scurrilous epigram very much impairing the credit and legend of St. George, as followeth:—

They say there is no dragon,  
Nor no St. George, 'tis said :  
St. George and dragon lost,  
Pray Heaven there be a maid !

But it was smartly return'd to, in this manner:—

Saint George indeed is dead,  
And the fell dragon slaine :  
The maid liv'd so and dyed ;  
Shee'll ne'er doe so againe."

GAYTON'S *Pleasant Notes upon Don Quixot*, 1654, p. 231.

57. BATEMAN'S TRAGEDY, OR THE PERJUR'D BRIDE JUSTLY REWARDED, being the history of the Unfortunate Love of German's Wife and young Bateman. London, Printed by Tho. Norris at the Looking-glass on London-bridge, n. d.

In prose and verse, with wood-cuts. The latter part is entitled, "A Godly Warning to all Maidens by the Example of God's judgment shewed on German's wife, of Clifton, in the County of Nottingham, who, lying in child-bed, was borne away, and never heard of after : To the tune of the Lady's Fall." This is on the same subject as a play by William Sampson, "The Vow-breaker, or the Fair Maid of Clifton in Nottinghamshire", 4to. 1636.

58. Another edition. 12mo. Newcastle, 1783.

A wood-cut on the title, in three partitions, representing events in the history.



59. JACK AND JILL, AND OLD DAME GILL : read it who will, they'll laugh their fill. 18mo. London, n. d.

In verse, with numerous wood-cuts. The nursery rhymes of *Jack and Jill* are founded upon this tale.

60. THE HISTORY OF THE FOUR KINGS OF CANTERBURY, COLCHESTER, CORNWALL, AND CUMBERLAND, THEIR QUEENS AND DAUGHTERS, being the merry Tales of Tom Hodge and his Schoolfellows. 12mo. Falkirk, 1823.

Although this tract is of so late a date, yet it seems worth insertion in this series, as most probably a reprint of an older performance. It contains seven tales, the first of which relates to the period of the Lancashire witches, and a country fellow who "was possessed with a fear that he was a witch, because he had a wart grew on his neck, which he imagined to be a dug."

61. THE MOST SURPRISING ADVENTURES AND WONDERFUL INTRIGUES OF DAVID HUNTLY, the famous English fortune-hunter, who first made love to his master's daughter, and from having gained an interest in her favour, he began to think himself intitled to a much better match, and how he made his addresses to several ladies of fortune. 12mo. Glasgow, 1787.

62. THE HISTORY AND LIVES OF ALL THE MOST NOTORIOUS PIRATES, AND THEIR CREWS, from Captain Avery, who first settled at Madagascar, to Captain John Gow, and James Williams, his Lieutenant, &c., who were hanged at Execution

Dock, June 11, 1735, &c. Adorned with nineteen beautiful cuts. 12mo. Glasgow, 1788.

This became, in an abridged form, a very popular penny history.

63. THE STORY OF KING EDWARD III AND THE COUNTESS OF SALISBURY. 12mo. Whitehaven, n. d.

This is a small prose history, and there is one, if not more, early play on the same subject. A ballad "Of King Edward the Third and the fair Countess of Salisbury, setting forth her constancy and endless glory", is printed in Evans' *Old Ballads*, ed. 1810, ii, 301.

64. THE HISTORY OF JOHNNY ARMSTRONG OF WEST-MORELAND. 12mo. London, Aldermay Churchyard, n. d.

In six chapters, with cuts. This is an abridgment of the larger history. See No. 53.

65. Another edition. 12mo. Newcastle, 1772.

66. THE PLEASANT AND PRINCELY HISTORY OF THE GENTLE CRAFT, a Discourse containing many matters of Delight, very pleasant to read: shewing what famous men have been shooe-makers in time past in this land, with their worthy deeds and great Hospitality. Set forth with pictures, and variety of Wit and Mirth. London, Printed for H. Rhodes at the Star, the corner of Bride-lane, Fleet-street, n. d.



A gentle craft, that hath the art  
 To steal soon into a ladies heart ;  
 Here you may see what youth and love can do :  
 The crown doth stoop to the maker of a shooe.

Following the title are copies of verses "to all the good Yeomen of the Gentle Craft", and "the old Shooe-maker's advice to his Son, being the Downfall of Ale-wives." On the last page is a song, "How a Shoemaker's Widow fell in love with her Man". This edition contains twenty-nine leaves, and sixteen cuts.

67. THE PRINCELY HISTORY OF CRISPIN AND CRISPANIUS, OR THE GENTLE CRAFT, shewing what renowned princes, heroes, and worthies, have been of the Shoemakers' trade, both in this and other kingdoms ; likewise why it's call'd the Gentle Craft, and that they say a Shoemaker's son is a Prince born. 12mo. London, Printed by L. How in Petticoat-Lane, n. d.

An abridgment of the last, with several wood-cuts. It commences with the tale of Hugh and Winifred, daughter of Donvallo, King of Flintshire: and then follows the story of Crispin and Crispianus. Deloney's *Gentle Craft* was published in 1598, and Harrington has an epigram upon it. I have an edition of this chap-book printed at Newcastle about 1760, having a curious cut on the title evidently much older than the tract, and concluding with "A brief Account of the strange prodigies and other wonderful things that happened during the Mayoralty of Sir Simon Eyre, Lord Mayor of London, who was a Shoemaker."

68. THE SHOEMAKER'S GLORY, OR THE PRINCELY HISTORY OF THE GENTLE CRAFT, shewing, &c. 12mo. London, Aldermay Church-yard, n. d.

69. NO JEST LIKE A TRUE JEST, being a compendious record of the merry Life and mad Exploits of Capt. James Hind, the great robber of England; together with the close of all at Worcester, where he was drawn, hanged, and quartered, for High Treason against the Commonwealth, Sept. 24, 1652. 12mo. Stratford-upon-Avon, n. d.

This very popular history has been reprinted up to the present time in the north of England. The fourth chapter relates "how Hind was enchanted by an old hag for the term of three years," who gave him "a little box almost like a sun-dial," saying, "when you are in distress, open this, and that way you see the star turn out, go and you shall escape."

70. THE HISTORY OF THOMAS HICKATHRIFT: Part the First.—The History of Thomas Hickathrift: Part the Second. 12mo. London, n. d.

With numerous cuts. *Thomas Hickathrift* belongs to the same series as *Jack the Giant-killer*, one of the popular corruptions of old Northern romances. It seems to allude to some of the insurrections in the Isle of Ely, such as that of Hereward, described in Wright's *Essays*, 1846, ii, 91. The first part contains five chapters:—1. Tom's birth and parentage. 2. How Tom Hickathrift's great strength came to be known. 3. How Tom became a brewer's servant; how he killed a giant, and came to be called Mr. Hickathrift. 4.



How Tom kept a pack of hounds, and of his being attacked by some highwaymen. 5. Tom meets with the tinker, and of the battle they fought.—The contents of the second part are as follows:—1. Tom Hickathrift and the Tinker conquer ten thousand rebels. 2. Tom Hickathrift and the Tinker are sent for to court, and of their kind entertainment. 3. Tom, after the death of his mother, goes a wooing, and of a trick he served a gallant who had affronted him. 4. How Tom served two troopers, whom his spark had hired to beset him. 5. Tom, going to be married, is set upon by one-and-twenty ruffians, and of the havock he made. 6. Tom makes a feast for all the poor widows in the adjacent towns, and how he served an old woman, who stole a silver cup. 7. Sir Thomas and his Lady are sent for up to court, and of what happened at that time. 8. Tom is made governor of East Angles, now called the Isle of Thanet, and of the wonderful achievements he there performed. 9. The tinker, hearing of Tom's fame, he goes to his partner; and of his being unfortunately slain by a lion. The reader will observe the error respecting the East Angles, *now called the Isle of Thanet*, a mistake not unlikely to be made by a compiler from an older tale, who was not very minutely acquainted with geography.

71. THE FAMOUS HISTORY OF TOM THUMB, wherein is declared his marvellous Acts of Manhood, full of wonderful Merriment. Part the First.

The Famous History of Tom Thumb, wherein is declared his marvellous Acts of Manhood, full of



wonderful Merriment: performed after his first return from Fairy Land. Part the Second.

The History of Tom Thumb, wherein is declared his marvellous Acts of Manhood, full of wonder and merriment: performed after his second return from Fairy Land. Part the Third.

12mo. Printed and sold in London, n. d.

The first part of this history is a copy, with a few variations and eight additional stanzas, of an edition in the Bodleian Library, dated 1630, reprinted in Ritson's *Pieces of Ancient Popular Poetry*, 1791, p. 99. The two other parts are probably more modern, not being found in the early editions. It was no doubt published at a very early period, being alluded to by Ben Jonson, and thus mentioned in some verses prefixed to Coryat's *Crudities*, 1611:—

Tom Thumbe is dumbe, untill the pudding creepe  
In which he was intomb'd, then out doth peepe.

And again, in a very old ballad, entitled, "The Devil and the Scold":—

Tom Thumb is not my subject,  
Whom fairies oft did aide:  
Nor that mad spirit Robin,  
That plagues both wife and maid.

It was turned into prose in 1621, the editor saying, "The ancient tales of Tom Thumbe in the olde time have beene the only revivers of drouzy age at midnight: old and young have with his tales chim'd matens till the cocks crow in the morning; batchelors and maides with his tales have compassed the Christmas fire-blocke till the curfew bell rings candle out; the



old shepheard and the young plow-boy, after their dayes labour, have carold out a Tale of Tom Thumbe to make them merry with: and who but little Tom hath made long nights seem short, and heavy toyles easie? Therefore, gentle reader, considering that old modest mirth is turn'd naked out of doors, while nimble wit in the great hall sits upon a soft cushion giving dry bobbes; for which cause I will, if I can, new cloath him in his former livery, and bring him againe into the chimney corner, where now you must imagine me to sit by a good fire, amongst a company of good fellows, over a well spic'd wassel-bowle of Christmas ale, telling of these merry tales which hereafter follow." *Tom Thumb* is thus alluded to in John Taylor's *Motto*, 12mo. 1622 :—

And many more good good bookes I have with care  
 Lookt on their goods, and never stole their ware,  
 For no booke to my hands could ever come,  
 If it were but the treatise of *Tom Thumb*,  
 Or Scoggins Jests, or any simple play,  
 Or monstrous newes came trundling in my way,  
 All these, and ten times more, some good, some bad,  
 I have from them much observation had :  
 And so with care and study I have writ  
 These bookes, the issue of a barren wit.

*Tom Thumbe* is also included in the list of authors prefixed to *Sir Gregory Nonsense, his Newes from No Place*, in Taylor's *Workes*, 1630. So also in the second part of the *Friar and the Boy* :—

The merry tales of Robin Hood,  
*Tom Thumb*, and Little John,  
 Cannot compare with this little book,  
 Which I present to you.

It may be a question whether the tale of *Tom Thumb* has come down to us in its original form. Scott, in his *Discoverie of Witchcraft*, 1584, puts him in a list of fairies and hobgoblins. His size, however, might account for this; and a fairy page, in Drayton's *Nymphidia*, is called *Tom Thumb*. Taylor, in his *Certaine Sonnets in Praise of Mr. Thomas the Deceased*, in his *Workes*, 1630, ii, 63, says:—

Tom Thumb did through th' Arabian deserts wade,  
Where Castor and his brother Pollux shine.

And, again, in *Laugh and be Fat*, p. 77:—

This author 'mongst the rest in kindnesse comes  
To grace thy travels with a world of Toms ;  
*Tom Thumbe*, Tom Foole, Tom Piper, and Tom-asse,  
Thou Tom of Toms dost all these Toms surpasse.

Harry White, in his *Humour*, 1660, “is of this opinion, that if the histories of Garrangantua and *Tom Thumbe* be true, by consequence Bevis of Hampton and Scoggin's *Jests* must needes bee authenticall.”

It seems hardly necessary to allude to the monstrous assertion made by Thomas Hearne, that *Tom Thumb*, “however looked upon as altogether fictitious, yet was certainly founded upon some authentic history, as being nothing else originally but a description of King Edgar's dwarf.”

72. THE COMICAL AND MERRY TRICKS OF TOM  
THUMB THE WONDERFUL. 12mo. Paisley, n. d.

This is a prose history, formed from the foregoing metrical account of *Tom Thumb*.



73. THE HISTORY OF THE LIFE AND DEATH OF THAT NOBLE KNIGHT SIR BEVIS OF SOUTHAMPTON. 12mo. Newcastle, n. d.

A prose history, abridged from the romance. It has a cut on the title, evidently copied from that in the old black-letter edition, of Sir Bevis on horseback, attended by his squire. Allusions to Sir Bevis are of very frequent occurrence. Hooper says:—"Men knoweth not what the Gospel is: they read it as they read Bevis of Hampton, or the Gestes of Robin Hood," *Early Writings*, p. 77. Taylor, the water-poet, mentions him several times in his *Workes*, 1630, i, 65; ii, 1, 16; iii, 80; and in his *Crop-eare Curried*, 1644; and Gayton, in his *Pleasant Notes*, 1654, p. 275, says: "Men may, if they be dispos'd to be merry, seem to discredit the stories of Bevis of Southampton, John-a-Green, and Robin Hood, but that the cities wherein these men sometimes were famous in their hals and publike meeting-places in painted cloth or frames, present the lively histories still unto posterity." The statue of Bevis, mentioned by Pepys, i, 347, is still remaining on the gates of Southampton.

74. THE HISTORY OF THE NOBLE MARQUIS OF SALUS AND PATIENT GRISSEL. 12mo. London, Aldermary Church-yard, n. d.

Abridged and altered from the "Ancient, True, and Admirable History of Patient Grisel, a poore Man's daughter in France", 1619, which was reprinted by Mr. Collier for the Percy Society, 1842. It appears to have been published in this form, and under this



title, at least as early as 1703. In Harry White's *Humour*, printed about 1660, we read that—"Having lately read the rare history of Patient Grizell, out of it he hath drawne this phylosophicall position, that if all women were of that woman's condition, we should have no imployment for cuckin-stooles."

75. THE HISTORY OF JACK OF NEWBURY, CALLED THE CLOTHIER OF ENGLAND. 12mo. London, n. d.

An abridged edition, with wood-cuts. This tale appears to have been first printed in 1596, and the eighth edition was published in 1619. The eleventh edition appeared in 1630, entitled, "The Pleasant History of John Winchcomb, in his younger yeares called Jack of Newbery, the famous and worthy Clothier of England, declaring his life and love, together with his charitable deedes and great hospitality, and how he set continually five hundred poore people at worke, to the great benefite of the Commonwealth." In a MS. Diary by one Stoneley, written in 1597, is the following entry:—"To Johns the prynter for the booke of Jack of Newberye at Wynchon, iiij d." Jack of Newbury is thus alluded to in John Taylor's "Jack a Lent, his Beginning and Entertainment, with the mad Prankes of his gentleman-usher Shrove-Tuesday, that goes before him, and his footman Hunger attending," 1630:—

Of Jack-an-Apes I list not to endite,  
Nor of Jack Daw my gooses quill shall write ;  
Of *Jacke of Newbery* I will not repeate,  
Nor Jacke of both sides, nor of Skip-Jacke neate.



76. THE PLEASANT ART OF MONEY-CATCHING, treating of the original and invention of Money; of the misery of wanting it; how persons in straits for money may supply themselves with it; how a man may always keep money in his pocket; how a man may pay debts without money; the true and only way to thrive.

Whilst arts and study's a hatching,  
My study is the art of money-catching ;  
And I, poor I, by sad experience know  
That want of money brings a deal of woe.

12mo. Glasgow, 1740.

This was a very popular chap-book, and frequently reprinted.

77. DEAD ALIVE : a True and Particular Account of a Man who came to Life again in the closet of a Surgeon, after he had been publicly executed ; how he affrighted the Surgeon, who afterwards assisted him in his escape to Holland, where he became an opulent Merchant. 8vo. London, n. d.

Theodore Hook probably founded his novel of *Maxwell* on this narrative. The scene is laid at Bury in Suffolk, and at Amsterdam.

78. THE HISTORY OF SIR RICHARD WHITTINGTON, THRICE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON, shewing how he came up a poor boy to London, and was received as a scullion by a merchant; his sufferings and afflictions under a cruel cook-maid. How he bought a cat for a penny, and sent her a venture beyond sea, for which he got great riches in exchange. And lastly, how he married his Master's daughter, and was made thrice Lord Mayor of London. 12mo. Newcastle, n. d.

79. Another edition. 12mo. Printed by L. How in Petticoat-lane, n. d.

On the title is a wood-cut of Whittington on horseback as Lord Mayor, attended by his mace-bearers. There are several other cuts in the Newcastle edition, very rude and curious. These are the original versions, differing very much from the recent editions. The first edition of this history is probably not in existence. It was certainly published in some shape early in the seventeenth century, the "famous fable of Whittington and his puss" being mentioned in *Eastward Hoe*, 1605. Stephens thus alludes to it in his *Essayes and Characters*, 12mo. Lond. 1615:—

As if a new-found Whittington's rare cat,  
Come to extoll their birth-rights above that  
Which nature once intended.

There is, indeed, in existence a black-letter copy in quarto, but it is of a considerably later date. A character in the *Parson's Wedding*, 1664, says, "I have heard of Whittington and his cat, and others, that have made fortunes by strange means." The *Spectator*, No. 5, remarks, "I am credibly informed that there was once a design of casting into an opera the story of Whittington and his Cat, and that in order to it, there had been got together a great quantity of mice; but Mr. Rich, the proprietor of the play-house, very prudently considered that it would be impossible for the cat to kill them all, and that, consequently, the princes of the stage might be as much infested with mice as the prince of the island was before the cat's



arrival upon it; for which reason, he would not permit it to be acted in his house." An opera on the subject was, however, produced at the theatre in Smock Alley, Dublin, in 1739. A correspondent of the *Tatler*, Oct. 8th, 1709, is anxious that Sir Richard should be admitted into the list of famous men, as one "who began the world with a cat, and died worth three hundred and fifty thousand pounds sterling, which he left to an only daughter three years after his mayoralty."

Sir Richard Whittington, whose name has been taken for the hero of this romance, was Lord Mayor of London early in the fifteenth century. See Stowe's *Survey of London*, ed. 1605, p. 521. According to Stowe's *Annales*, p. 567, "he builded the library of the Grey Friars, and the East end of the Guild Hall in London, with divers small conduites called *bosses*, and the Weast Gate of London called Newgate."

This story is stated by Sir William Ouseley to be founded on an oriental narrative, and it is related in a Persian MS. that in the tenth century one Keis, the son of a poor widow of Siraf, embarked for India with his sole property, a cat: there he fortunately arrived at a time when the palace was so infested by mice or rats, that they invaded the king's food, and persons were employed to drive them from the royal banquet. This cat was useful in the same manner as Whittington's, and its owner was similarly rewarded. See further in Keightley's *Tales and Popular Fictions*, pp. 241-266.



In the *Description of Guinea*, 1665, it is recorded “how Alphonso, a Portuguese, being wrecked on the coast of Guinney, and being presented by the king thereof with his weight in gold for a cat to kill their mice, and an oyntment to kill their flies, which he improved, within five years, to £6000 on the place, and returning to Portugal, after fifteen years traffick, became the third man in the kingdom.”

The tale of Whittington was dramatized early in the seventeenth century. According to the *Biographia Dramatica*, iii, 402, there was entered on the books of the Stationers' Company by Thomas Pavier, Feb. 8th, 1604, “The History of Richard Whittington, of his lowe byrthe, his great fortune, as yt was played by the Prynces servants.” This play is alluded to in the *Knight of the Burning Pestle*, 1613. Pepys mentions a puppet-show on the story, Sept. 21st, 1668 :—“To Southwarke fair, very dirty, and there saw the puppet-show of Whittington, which was pretty to see ; and how that idle thing do work upon people that see it, and even myself too !”

At the end of this chap-book is the ballad beginning “Here must I sing the praise of worthy Whittington,” which is printed in the *Crowne Garland of Goulden Roses*, 1612, and has been reprinted in Evans, ed. 1810, ii, 325, and elsewhere.

80. THE LIFE AND DEATH OF SHEFFERY MORGAN,  
THE SON OF SHON AP MORGAN. 12mo. New-  
castle, c. 1760.



On the title is a cut of a Welshman, with a leek in his hat. It describes the adventures of a Taffy from his birth to his death, how he travelled towards London, took a journey to the North, was robbed, turned doctor, and at last died of a surfeit. It appears, from allusions in it, to have been composed in the seventeenth century. Shon ap Morgan is mentioned in Taylor's *Workes*, 1630, i, 117.

81. THE WELCH TRAVELLER, OR THE UNFORTUNATE WELCHMAN.

If any gentleman does want a man,  
 As I doubt not but some will want, and then,  
 I have a Welchman, though but meanly clad,  
 Will make him merry, be he ne'er so sad :  
 If that you'll read it, read it thro', I pray,  
 And you'll not think your penny thrown away.

12mo. London, n. d.

A curious metrical account of the misfortunes of a poor Welchman, said to have been written by Humphry Crouch. A Newcastle edition, in my possession, printed about 1760, says, "by Humphrey Cornish." It was published as early as 1671. It is illustrated with cuts. At p. 10 is one of Taffy and an old woman seated in stocks. Taffy's Indictment, which concludes the tract, is as follows :—" Imprimis, for troubling the shepherd to help him out of the pit : Item, for selling the jerkin for a groat which was borrowed : Item, for casting dust into the hostess's son's face : Item, for casting the fish and rotten eggs into the hostess's face : Item, for throwing apples at the country-man, having the worst

of it himself : Item, for taking the gold ring : Item, for calling the justice booby : Item, for sitting in the stocks with an old woman : Item, for creeping into the smoak-loft, and then falling down into the fire : Item, for acting the part of the devil, and putting all the house in bodily fear : Item, for scaring all the children in the town : Item, for scaring the sexton in the church : for which loose behaviour he was obliged to stand in the pillory, where we shall leave him till the next pranks he plays.”

82. THE MERRY TALES OF THE WISE MEN OF  
GOTHAM. 12mo. Printed and sold in London, n. d.

This has a cut on the title of a Gothamite hedging in a cuckoo, with the inscription, “Coocou. Gotam.” It is the same cut that is fac-similed in Collier’s *Rox-burghe Ballads*, p. 126. The first known edition is entitled, “Merie Tales of the Mad Men of Gotam, gathered together by A. B. of Phisike Doctour” : the colophon is, “Imprinted at London in Flet-stret, beneath the Conduit, at the signe of S. John Evangelist, by Thomas Colwell,” bl. l., n. d., but probably between 1556 and 1566. Allusions to these tales are very numerous, and exhibit their great popularity. Wither, in his *Abuses*, p. 80, says :—

And he that tryes to doe it, might have bin  
One of the crew that hedg’d the cuckow in.

They had attained public favour much earlier. In *Philotimus*, 1583, the “men of Goatam” are remembered as having tied “their rentes in a purse about an



hare's necke, and bad her to carrie it to their landlord;" and they are decried as "witlesse devices" in Dering's *Workes*, 1614.

83. THE HISTORY OF ADAM BELL, CLIM OF THE CLOUGH, AND WILLIAM OF CLOUDESLEIE.

Who were three archers good enough,  
The best in the north country.

12mo. Newcastle, n. d.

This is a somewhat modernized version of the well known poem reprinted by Ritson and Percy, but the variations between them are well worth the notice of a future editor. It has the following cut on the title, which originally appeared in *Robin Hood's Garland*, 1670; representing Robin Hood, Little John, Queen Catharine, the Bishop, the Curtal Friar, and the Beggar. See Mr. Gutch's edition of the *Robin Hood Ballads*, i, 364.





84. THE MERRY CONCEITS OF TOM LONG THE CARRIER, being many pleasant Passages and mad Pranks which he observed in his travels. Full of honest mirth and delight. The nineteenth edition.

A sackful of news here is for your money ;  
Come buy it then, 'twill cost you but a penny.

12mo. London, n. d.

On a fly-leaf is a wood-cut of a woman, in a costume of the time of Charles I. The following notices of the different histories, in which the heroes are persons of the name of Tom, are curious.

Of all the Toms that ever yet was nam'd,  
There's none like our Tom, that is so fam'd :  
Tom Long, his rare conceits by far exceeds  
Tom Hickathrift, and all his mighty deeds :  
Tom Tram's mad tricks to every one are known,  
But greater wonders in this book are shown ;  
Tom Thumb's strange wonders too, they seem as nought  
Compar'd with those which Tom the Carrier's brought :  
Tom's Ass may pass, but only for his ears,  
For no such jewels as our Tom he wears :  
Tom Tell-truth is the froth, but truth to tell,  
From all these Toms, Tom Long doth bear the bell.

The chapters of this tract are thus entitled :—1. How Tom Long first set up the trade of being a carrier, and where he took up his lodging. 2. How Tom Long the Carrier met a young man upon the way, with what happened to them, and how they were entertained by an hostess. 3. How Tom and his young man discoursed of their dinner, and how they resolved to mend the matter at night, but met with as bad entertainment. 4. Tom relates how a certain counterfeit merchant cozen'd divers gentlemen of very great sums of money.



5. Of the great surprize that Tom Long was in, and how the wise mayor of Huntington siezed on Tom's ragged colt for Sturgeon. 6. A story of the seven sleepers, who slept above three hundred years, and never waked. 7. How Tom Long the Carrier sold his horse for the skin, supposing him to be dead, and how a crafty fellow coming by knew what the horse ailed, and so bought him. 8. How Tom Long the Carrier converted all his carriage to his own use, and thereby recruited himself with another horse, and of the sad mischance that befel his horse. 9. How Tom Long was assaulted by a dog, and how valiantly he defended himself, and killed him. 10. Of the hard lodging Tom Long found on the ground, having under him but one poor feather. 11. Of the king and his jester. 12. How Tom Long cozened two shoemakers of a pair of shoes. 13. Witty conceits of Tom Long. 14. The conclusion of the merry conceits of Tom Long.—Although this history offers curious illustrations of phraseology, I have looked in vain for a prose quotation. The last chapter, however, which is in verse, may be worth giving :

Tom Long the carrier coming to an inn,  
 Ask'd the maid what meat there was within ?  
 Cow-heels, said she, and a fine breast of mutton.  
 Then, said Tom, since that I am no glutton,  
 Either shall serve ; to-night I'll have the breast :  
 The heels in the morning, then light meat is the best.  
 At night he took the breast, and did not pay ;  
 In the morning took his heels, and ran away.  
 When the worst is past, all things begin to mend,  
 And here the story of Tom Long doth end.



Taylor, in his *Armado, or Navy of Ships and other Vessels*, ed. 1630, p. 80, thus alludes to Tom Long:—  
 “The master’s name was Petrus Vaineglorious, his mate Hugo Hypocrisie, men that have steered the course in the lord-ship many hundred yeeres; the boat-swaine and his mate were Scoffe and Derision, with Gripe the steward, Avarice the purser, and Lawrence Delay the paymaster, *kinsman to Tom Long the Carrier*, which three last are thought to be very arrant knaves, who have spoyled the government of the whole ship.” A ballad, “intituled Tom Longe the Caryer,” was entered on the books of the Stationers’ Company, 1562. Brome mentions this personage in his *Songs and other Poems*, ed. 1668, p. 226:—

Their fat have scabs doubled for every nail,  
 That thou mayst, like Tom Long, for ever go,  
 And ne’er come where thou art assign’d unto.

85. THE FOREIGN TRAVELS AND DANGEROUS VOYAGES OF THAT RENOWNED ENGLISH KNIGHT SIR JOHN MANDEVILLE, wherein he gives an account of remote kingdoms, countries, rivers, castles, and giants of a prodigious height and strength; together with the people called Pigmies, very small and of a low stature. To which is added an account of people of odd Deformities, some without heads: also dark enchanted wildernesses, where are fiery dragons, griffins, and many wonderful beasts of prey in the country of Prester John. All very delightful to the Reader. 12mo. Bow-Church Yard, n. d.

A popular abridgment, in twenty-four chapters, of the well known travels of Maundevile.



86. THE MERRY EXPLOITS OF POOR ROBIN, THE MERRY SADDLER OF WALDEN, containing many merry passages of his life, of harmless mirth, to lengthen out pleasure, and drive away melancholy. 12mo. n.d.

A very curious tract, which appears, from several allusions, to have been written during the time of the civil wars. The following chapter will serve as an example of its contents:—

*Poor Robin's perambulation about the City.*—No sooner did Apollo begin to appear in the eastern horizon, but Poor Robin, shaking off melancholy sleep, roused his companion to prepare himself for their intended perambulation; and having armed themselves with a pot of nappy ale, they took their first walk to see the Royal Exchange, a most magnificent structure, built by Sir Thomas Gresham. From thence they then went to take a view of Leadenhall, but the exceeding bravery of the Exchange had so dimmed the beauty of the place, that it was nothing pleasing to Poor Robin's eye; he made no tarrying there, but went presently down to the Tower, where having seen the lions, and from the Wharf taken a superficial view of the bridge, as also the ships upon the river Thames, grew weary of beholding such trivial matters as these. He had, however, far more content in this than in any thing he had seen before, so admirably pleasing to his fancy it was to see how these little pretty things hopt about. But lest he should take a surfeit with such ravishing delights, his friends persuaded him to go to see the ancient Cathedral of St. Paul's, it being at that



time made a horse guard by the soldiers ; which Poor Robin beholding, 'What a blessed reformation,' quoth he, 'have we here ! for in our country we can scarce persuade men to go to church, but here come men and horses too.' But having quickly satisfied himself with the sight of St. Paul's, they would in the next place go to visit Westminster, the rather because it was at term time, where beholding such a number of Lawyers in their gowns, he roared out, 'Good God ! send me safe out of this place, for if two or three make so great quarrelling in our town, what a noise will all these make !'

87. THE FAMOUS AND MEMORABLE HISTORY OF CHEVY CHACE BY THE RIVER TWEED IN SCOTLAND, together with the fatal battle between Lord Piercy of Northumberland, and his fifteen hundred archers, and the Earl of Douglas with twenty hundred Scots : in which both these earls and most of their men were slain. 12mo. London, Aldermay Church-yard, n. d.

A prose history, with the ballad at p. 16, commencing, "God prosper long our noble king." The chapters of the first part are entitled:—1. How the Piercies came by their name, and to be Earls of Northumberland, and of the vow which the Earl, in the reign of Henry II, made of hunting three days in Chevy Chace. 2. Of their killing many deer, and receiving at supper-time a threatening message from Douglas commanding them to depart. 3. Of Earl Piercy's second day's sport, and his conduct on hearing of Earl Dou-



glas's approach. 4. Of the meeting of the two Earls, their proposal to decide the quarrel in single combat, with Witherington's objection. 5. The battle begun, and of its obstinate and bloody countenance: and the death of the two Earls.

88. THE MERRY AND ENTERTAINING JOKES OF GEORGE BUCHANAN, who was servant and teacher to King James VI, as his private Counsellor, but publicly acted as his fool. The whole compiled in three numbers, for the entertainment of youth. 12mo. Newcastle, n. d.

In two parts, with miscellaneous jests at the end. This chap-book was exceedingly popular, if we may judge from the numerous editions that have been published in the north of England and in Scotland. The following extract is taken from another Newcastle edition, which somewhat differs from the above:—

14. George being now far advanced in years, and being weary of the great fatigue and folly of the court fashions, a short time before his death had a great desire to visit his native country, and the place of his nativity; therefore he petitioned the King for permission to do so, which was granted. So he set out for Scotland, and went to the parish of Buchanan, in Dumbartonshire, where he visited all his relations and friends. But George staying longer from court than the time allowed, the King sent him several messages to return, to which he returned no answer. At last the King sent him a letter, threatening, that if he did not appear before him in the space of twenty days, he

would send his Lyon Heralds for him; to which George returned the following answer:—

My honour'd liege, and sovereign king,  
Of your boasting great I dread no thing ;  
On your feud or favour I'll fairly venture ;  
Ere that day I'll be where few kings enter.

And also gave him many good admonitions and directions concerning the government of his kingdom, and the well-being of his soul, which drew tears from the King's eyes when he read it.

89. THE WITTY AND ENTERTAINING EXPLOITS OF GEORGE BUCHANAN, who was commonly called the King's Fool, in six parts complete: to which are added several witty and entertaining Jests. 12mo. Stirling, 1799.

90. THE HISTORY OF THE LIFE AND DEATH OF FAIR ROSAMOND, KING HENRY II'S CONCUBINE, shewing how Queen Eleanor plotted to destroy Fair Rosamond, to prevent which she was removed to a stately Bower at Woodstock, near Oxford, and while the King was in France, Fair Rosamond was poisoned by Queen Eleanor. 12mo. Whitehaven, n. d.

In seven chapters, pp. 24. Drayton has the following notice of Rosamond's Bower in his *Poems*, ed. 1637:—"Rosamond's Labyrinth, whose ruines, together with her Well, being paved with square stone in the bottome, and also her Tower from which the Labyrinth did run (are yet remaining) was altogether underground, being vaults arched and walled with brick and stone, almost inextricably wound one within an-



other, by which, if at any time her lodging were laid about by the Queen, shee might easily avoid perill eminent, and if need be, by secret issues take the aire abroad many furlongs round about Woodstocke in Oxfordshire, wherein it was situated. Thus much for Rosamond's Labyrinth."

91. THE UNFORTUNATE SON, OR A KIND WIFE IS WORTH GOLD, being full of Mirth and Pastime :

Good reader let thy patience brook  
But to read over this small book,  
Which will thee satisfy awhile,  
And surely force from thee a smile:  
A story of such fortune bad,  
Had never, sure, poor harmless lad.

12mo. London, n. d.

A comical description of the disasters of a foolish fellow, who blunders in every thing, and succeeds in nothing that he undertakes. It commences thus:—

There was a man but one son had,  
And he was all his joy ;  
But still his fortune was but bad,  
Tho' he was a pretty boy.  
His father sent him forth one day  
To feed a flock of sheep,  
And half of them were stole away,  
While he lay down to sleep.  
Next day he went with one Tom Goff,  
To reap as he was seen,  
When he did cut his fingers off,  
The sickle was so keen !

92. THE PLEASANT AND DELIGHTFUL HISTORY OF

THE UNFORTUNATE DAUGHTER, set forth in two parts.

The Unfortunate Son you have had before ;  
Accept the Daughter, and then no more.

12mo. Licensed and entered according to Order,  
n. d.

A similar poem to the last, detailing like misfortunes. The second part commences as follows :—

Be silent, all ye girls and boys,  
Assist me, all you Nine,  
And while I speak make ye no noise,  
That fame with art may shine.  
I spoke of Gellian, that fine girl,  
The glory of the West,  
Daughter unto William Pearl,  
A wench of great request.

There are several indications of early composition in this tract. At p. 13 is an allusion to Bevis of Hampton, "who kill'd the wild boar, and bang'd the giant's hide." It concludes with "An Epitaph which a friend of her's wrote, being some of her rare qualifications which she perform'd in her life-time, who hanged a mourning shoe-clout over her grave instead of a banner." On the title is a large rude wood-cut, representing the events related in the history.

93. THE FIVE STRANGE WONDERS OF THE WORLD,  
OR A NEW MERRY BOOK OF ALL FIVES, which  
was written on purpose to make all the People of  
England merry, who have no occasion to be sad.  
8vo. London, n. d.

This is clearly an ancient composition. It describes



five different species of each motto. Thus “the five sorts of people beholden to the horn” are, “the ink-horn-maker for a livelihood, the shoe-maker to draw on his customers’ shoes, the farrier to drench sick horses with, the huntsman to call his dogs together, and Tom of Bedlam to call his boys together.” The following “five things in great request” may ascertain the date of the tract:—“Hoops in women’s petticoats almost as big as a well’s curble, women who carry their cloaths half up their legs, young men in perukes down to their breeches, wenches who wear high top-knots on their heads and never a smock on, painted wh: in coaches, and honest gentlemen who are walking on foot.” Another edition, printed by Wolverhampton, has the following verses on the title-page:—

Here are such conceits and merriment,  
Which well may give the reader good content ;  
And serve it will to lengthen some men’s lives,  
If they observe the several sorts of *Fives* :  
Let those that buy read it at their leisure,  
'Twill serve as well for profit as for pleasure.

94. YOUTH’S WARNING-PIECE, OR THE TRAGICAL HISTORY OF GEORGE BARNWELL, who was undone by a Strumpet, that caused him to rob his Master, and murder his Uncle. 12mo. Stockton, n. d.

A prose history, with cuts, followed by “George Barnwell, an excellent old ballad, setting forth the weakness and folly of Youth in following the steps of lewd women, which always lead to destruction,” which has been printed by Percy.

95. SIMPLE SIMON'S MISFORTUNES, OR HIS WIFE MARGERY'S OUTRAGIOUS CRUELTY. 12mo. London, Printed and sold by Mary D. at the Horse-shoe in Giltspur Street, n. d.

At the end is "a pleasant Song, giving an account of many more miserable Misfortunes of poor Simon, shewing how he drank a bottle of sack to poison himself, as being weary of his life." This edition, which was printed early in the last century, is unfortunately imperfect; but the deficiency is supplied from a Newcastle edition, printed about 1760. The chapters are thus entitled:—1. An account of Simon's wedding, and how his wife Margery scolded him for putting on his roast-meat cloaths the very next morning after he was married. 2. How she dragg'd him up the chimney in a basket a smoak-drying, wherein they used to dry bacon, which made him look like a red-herring. 3. How Simon lost a sack of corn as he was going to the mill to have it ground. 4. How Simon went to market with a basket of eggs, but broke them by the way: also how he was put into the stocks. 5. How Simon's wife cudgell'd him for not bringing home money for his eggs. 6. How Simon lost his wife's pail, and burnt the bottom of her kettle. 7. How Simon's wife sent him to buy two pounds of soap, but going over a bridge, let his money fall into the river: also how a rag-man run away with his cloaths. The *roast-meat* clothes, mentioned in the first chapter, mean the holiday or Sunday clothes.

96. THE COMICAL HISTORY OF SIMPLE JOHN AND



HIS TWELVE MISFORTUNES, which happened all in twelve days after the unhappy day of his Marriage, giving a particular account of his courtship and marriage to a scolding wife, which has been a mortifying misery to many a poor man. 12mo. Glasgow, 1805.

A Scotch tract, more modern than the above, and apparently imitated from it. To this may be added the following:—

97. THE MISERIES OF POOR SIMPLE INNOCENT SILLY TAM. 12mo. n. d.

98. WANTON TOM, OR THE MERRY HISTORY OF TOM STITCH THE TAYLOR.

Deck'd with such pleasing pastimes of delight,  
That it would invite a lady, lord, or knight,  
To read : it is a gem, a mint of treasure,  
'Tis sport and mirth beyond all measure.

12mo. Newcastle, n. d.

A collection of anecdotes respecting a young tailor, who was a favourite with the ladies. On the frontispiece is a cut of two tailors seated on their table. This tract was composed in the seventeenth century, and has some curious allusions.

99. THE HISTORY OF THAT CELEBRATED LADY ALLY CROAKER, in which is contained more fun than ever was sold at so small an expense, consisting of funny joaks and blunders, and intended to instruct and delight. 12mo. London, n. d.

All you that merriment do love,  
To ease a troubled mind,  
Peruse this book, and you therein  
Great store of mirth will find ;

Here's funny blunders fresh and new,  
 Till now where (*sic*) ne'er in print :  
 You'll say, if well this book you view,  
 There's mirth and pastime in't.

With numerous cuts, printed about 1760. This was a very popular chap-book in the last century, and frequently published at Aldermary Church-yard. It is a collection of Irish bulls in the form of a narrative, impertinently connected with the name of Alicia Croker, who was the second sister of Edward Croker of Rawleighstown, county Limerick, and high sheriff of that county in 1735. She was a great beauty, and the subject of many verses and some music. Mr. Grogan, a gentleman of the county of Wexford, is said to have composed the popular air of *Ally Croker* in commendation of her charms. This must have been previous to 1735, as it was replied to in a sporting song on the convivialities of her brother, by Pierce Creagh, printed by Mr. Crofton Croker. Ally married Charles Langley, Esq. of Lisnarnock, county Kilkenny, and died at an advanced age, without children to inherit their mother's charms.

100. THE MERRY FROLICKS, OR THE COMICAL CHEATS OF SWALPO, a notorious Pickpocket, and the Merry Pranks of Roger the Clown. 12mo. London, n. d.

An account of the cheats practised by a pickpocket. It is illustrated by cuts. In another edition, printed by T. Saint, Newcastle, about 1770, his companion is called on the title "Jack the Clown. The first chapter, which illustrates the practices formerly in vogue at



Bartholomew Fair, is an average specimen of the ingenuity of the whole.

*How Swalpo outwitted a countryman of a broad piece of gold, which he had hid in his mouth.*—Swalpo dressed himself like a countryman, with a pair of dirty boots, and a whip in his hand, and going into Bartholomew Fair, met with no prize worth speaking of, he walked out of the fair. At the entrance into the fair he met a countryman, and said to him, “Honest friend, have a care of your pockets; you are going into a cursed place, where there are none but rogues and pickpockets; I am almost ruined by them, and am glad they have not picked the teeth out of my head: let one take never so much care of their pockets, they’ll be sure of the money: I am sure the devil helps them.” “I defy all the devils in hell,” says the countryman, “to rob me of anything of value. I’ve a broad piece, and that I’ll secure.” So clapping it into his mouth, he went confidently into the fair. Swalpo desired no more than to know if he had money, and where it lay: he gives a sign to a hopeful boy of his, and giving him out some sixpences and groats, told him what he should do. The boy immediately runs, and falls down just before the countryman, and scattering the money, starts up and roars like a bedlamite, crying, he was undone, he must run away from his apprenticeship; his master was such a furious fellow, he would certainly kill him. The countryman with other people gathered about, helping the boy to take the money. One of them says, “Have you recovered all?” “Yes, all the silver,” says



the boy, "but what does that signify? There is a broad piece of gold that I was carrying to my master for a token sent him from the country, and I like a fool must come through this unlucky place to lose it: I shall be kill'd. What shall become of me?" Swalpo coming up, tells some of the by-standers, who were pitying of the boy, that he observed that country fellow there to stoop, and put something into his mouth. Whereupon they flew upon him, and one of them wresting open his mouth, made him spit out the gold, and some blood along with it. When the countryman endeavoured to speak for himself, they kicked him, punched him, and tossed him about, and some calling to the . . . . . and pump, he was glad to call for mercy, and thought himself richer than the great Turk when he got out of their clutches. The boy, in the mean time, slips from the crowd, and goes to Swalpo with the gold, where he used to find him."

101. THE HISTORY AND COMICAL TRANSACTIONS OF  
LOTHIAN TOM, in six Parts; wherein is contained  
a collection of roguish Exploits done by him both  
in Scotland and England. 12mo. Edinburgh, n. d.

An account of tricks, some not of the most honourable description. At the end is, "The Ploughman's Glory, or Tom's Song."

102. THE CONQUEST OF FRANCE, with the Life and  
Glorious Actions of Edward the Black Prince, his  
victory, with about twelve thousand archers and  
men at arms, over Philip of France and an hun-



dred thousand Frenchmen, &c. 12mo. London, Bow-Church Yard, n. d.

This gives us an account of the amours of Edward and his son the Black Prince. On the title is a cut of English archers besieging a French city.

103. THE WITCH OF THE WOODLANDS, OR THE COBLER'S NEW TRANSLATION.

Here Robin the Cobler, for his former evils,  
Is punish'd bad as Faustus with his devils.

12mo. London, n. d.

A very curious tract, of which I have several editions, differing only in the wood-cuts. It commences: "In the weilds of Kent, not far from Romney Marsh, there dwelt an old merry-conceited cobbler, commonly called Robin the Devil, who afterwards was called the Witch of the Woodlands." He gets into the power of some witches, who transform him into a fox, a horse, and a swan; but, in the end, meets with a beggar-man, who leaves him a fortune. The annexed cut of the witches is taken from p. 12.

Chap. 1. Robin's place of abode: he is married to a wench; with his pitiful lamentation. 2. Robin runs away, and the entertainment he found on the road. 3. Robin wakes in the morning, and missed his bed-fellow, who soon returns with some witches; the manner of his punishment, and other particulars. 4. Robin goes to London; with his bitter lamentation on the road. 5. Robin meets an old blind beggar. 6. Robin lives with a beggar, who dies and leaves him all



his money ; Robin goes home, and what use he makes of his good fortune. Some of the wood-cuts are incongruous with the narrative. At p. 16, is one of a knight and a lady at a well ; at p. 18, a cut of two countrymen, the same which was a favourite embellishment in ballads of the seventeenth century ; and at p. 21 is a representation of the devil bringing a goblet to a person in bed.



104. THE FAMOUS AND MEMORABLE HISTORY OF WAT TYLER AND JACK STRAW. 12mo. London, Bow-Church Yard, n. d.

In five chapters, with wood-cuts.

105. THE HISTORY OF THE ROYAL MARTYR, KING CHARLES THE FIRST, with the Effigies of those worthy Persons that suffered, and the Time and Places where they lost their lives in his Majesty's



cause, during the Usurpation of Oliver Cromwell. 12mo. London, Bow-Church Yard, n. d.

In two parts, with twenty-four cuts. It appears to be a popular compilation from Lord Clarendon.

106. THE HISTORY OF THE WICKED LIFE AND HORRID DEATH OF DOCTOR JOHN FAUSTUS, shewing how he sold himself to the Devil to have power for twenty-four years to do as he pleased. Also the strange things done by him and Mephistophilus. With an account how the devil came for him at the end of twenty-four years, and tore him to pieces. 12mo. Glasgow, 1777.

An abridgment, in twenty-four pages, of the popular tale of Dr. Faustus, reprinted by Mr. Thoms.

107. THE FAMOUS AND RENOWNED HISTORY OF HECTOR, PRINCE OF TROY, OR THE THREE DESTRUCTIONS OF TROY. 12mo. 1787.

Chap. 1. How Troy was the first time destroyed by Harcules, for Leomedon's refusing to give him the horses he promised upon slaying a sea-monster, delivering Exione, his daughter, from destruction, and freeing the land from plague. 2. How Troy was a second time destroyed by Hercules, &c., and of the Greek's departure. 3. How King Priamus rebuilt Troy; how Paris was sent with a navy, and stole away fair Helen. 4. How the Greeks declared war against the Trojans, and came with a huge fleet, and burnt Tenedos. 5. Divers battles between the Trojans and the Greeks. 6. How the Greeks conspired the death of Hector, and how he was slain by Achilles.



108. JOHN THOMPSON'S MAN: or a short Survey of the Difficulties and Disturbances that may attend a married life: to which are added some very extensive and most salutary Observations thereon; with certain and approved Rules for the choice of a Wife. 12mo. Licensed and entered according to order, n. d.

A curious tract of twenty-four pages, with a wood-cut on the title. The author is a very plainly spoken person, as may be gathered from the following extract, which contains an array of epithets not very easily rivalled:—

16thly. If you wed an old mapsie, murlie, mupit, crouch-backed, milk-mow'd, wirlie-faced, nipped, deformed creature to be thy wife, it is surely more out of love to her gear than herself; but as the proverb says, need makes naked men run, and sorrow makes websters spin, for it is her money renders her as nimble as an eel, and clouts all her broken clampers; but consider, it is often observed that you leave behind you the product of the soil, which is crook-backed, heckle-headed, midge-winged, mifly-kited, lap-lugged, ill-haired, bee-stanged, flat-nosed, bow-legged, squint-eyed, chandler-chafted, sheavel-gabbed, left-handed, craik-toiled, yellow-wamed, button-footed, beetle, boided, wap-nobbed, tanny-cheeked, rep-shanked, fiddle-flanked, tout-mon'd, antick, apish, ugly, saucy, infirmed, diseased, donard, doited, decriped, disjointed, distracted, distorted, weazel-faced, quarter-witted, punch-lipped, horn-hiped, ham-houghed, hair-brained, nonsensical, fantastical, goose-capical, coxcomical, and idiotical world's wonder,



bursen-body, not only to possess your estate, but to build up your family—a pretty man indeed! And if these be help-meets let the world judge. So I think it is better for a man to live alone (if he lives a pious, chaste, virtuous, and honest life) than to be joined to one who will put him out of himself; for marriage, as it was said before, was designed for love, peace, and concord, and to be help-meets to each other; but as the proverb says, maidens are so meek till they be married, that men never so much as dream of a toolzie till the tocher come a-paying.

109. THE HISTORY AND TRAVELS OF HECTOR MACLEAN, late Sailor. Printed for Hector Maclean, and sold for his own benefit. 12mo. 1765.

Twenty-four pages, with two cuts. It was several times reprinted as a penny history.

110. A WONDERFUL PROPHECY BY ONE CALLED NIXON, who lived in Cheshire in the reign of King James VI of Scotland and I of England; foretelling several remarkable Events relating to the United Kingdoms of Great Britain, some of which are already accomplish'd, and others to be accomplished (as alleg'd) in the reign of our sovereign King George II. With a short description of that Prophet. 8vo. Edinburgh, 1730.

Nixon is here described as “a short squab fellow, had a great head and goggle eyes, and us'd to slobber and drivle when he spoke, which was but seldom. He was very surly, and would run after and beat the children that made sport at him. He would do nothing



without beating. He had a large stomach, and would eat up a great shoulder of mutton at a meal, and a luncheon of bread and cheese after it. The manner how Nixon was discovered to be a prophet was in this wise: His master being one day at plow, and Nixon following him, the boy stopt on a sudden, and dropt his bottle and budget, and stood as in a trance: they beat him, but to no purpose, for he stood still in the same manner above an hour. At last he told them, in a very rational manner, of divers things that were done some time before, and of others that would come to pass." This edition differs very considerably from the later copies.

111. THE STRANGE AND WONDERFUL HISTORY AND PROPHECIES OF MOTHER SHIPTON, plainly setting forth her birth, life, death, and burial. 12mo. Newcastle, n. d.

Chap. 1. Of her birth and parentage. 2. How Mother Shipton's mother proved with child; how she fitted the severe justice, and what happened at her delivery. 3. By what name Mother Shipton was christen'd, and how her mother went into a monastery. 4. Several other merry pranks play'd by Mother Shipton in revenge of such as abused her. 5. How Ursula married a young man named Tobias Shipton, and how strangely she discovered a thief. 6. Her prophesy against Cardinal Wolsey. 7. Some other prophesies of Mother Shipton relating to those times. 8. Her prophesies in verse to the Abbot of Beverly. 9. Mother Shipton's life, death, and burial.



112. THE WHOLE PROPHECIES OF SCOTLAND, ENGLAND, FRANCE, IRELAND, AND DENMARK; prophesied by Thomas Rymer, Mervellous Merling, Beid, Berlington, Waldhave, Eltraine, Banester, and Sybilla; containing many strange and marvellous matters not of before read or heard. 12mo. Aberdeen, 1779.

These prophecies are in verse, and that of Thomas the Rymer is a different version of the ballad of Thomas and the Fairy Queen, printed in Scott's *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*, ed. 1810, iii, 181, and Laing's *Early Popular Poetry*, 1822. At p. 38 is the "Prophesie of Gildas"; and at p. 40, "the Prophesie of Sybilla and Eltraine."

113. THE WORTHY SAYINGS OF OLD MR. DOD, fit to be treasured up in the Memory of every Christian. In two Parts. 8vo. London, n. d.

This was the celebrated puritan divine of Jesus College, Cambridge. Granger says in his *Biographical History*, ed. 1779, i, 370, "his Sayings have been printed in various forms; many of them, on two sheets of paper, are still to be seen pasted on the walls of cottages." The present edition is in prose, in the form of a chap-book, with a large woodcut of our Saviour on the Cross at the end. In the British Museum is a metrical version, entitled "Old Mr. Dod's Sayings, composed in verse for the better help of memory, and the delightfulness of children's reading and learning them; whereby they may the better be ingrafted in their memories and understanding; composed by

T. S., a well-willer to the precious and immortal souls of all persons whatsoever." 12mo, 1678.

114. THE CHRISTIAN TURNED JEW ; being the most remarkable Life and Adventures of Lord G. G., with the Letter sent to him by a certain great lady since his Confinement. 8vo. London, 1780.

A contemporary street tract on the proceedings of Lord George Gordon, with woodcuts, and a ballad on his committal to Newgate.

115. CANTERBURY TALES, composed for the entertainment of all ingenious young men and maids at their merry meetings ; intermixed with pleasant stories, witty jests, etc., very proper for town or country. 12mo. London, n. d.

A collection of jests, illustrated with cuts. The scenes of the anecdotes are chiefly laid at Canterbury. The following may be selected as an example :—

A woman having a new high-crowned hat, resolved for the first time of wearing it to go to church in it. When she entered, they were reading these words (which form part of the Church service), " Lord have mercy upon us !" The woman, being little accustomed to go to church, thought they was (*sic*) taking her hat off ; so in a rage hollowed,—" Lord have mercy upon us ! did you never see a woman's high-crowned hat before ?"

116. THE HISTORY OF HENRY, SON TO RICHARD EARL OF MORELAND : and the Life of Bob Easy, gent. 12mo. Darlington, Printed by Marshall Vesey, n. d.



On the title is a cut of a gentleman in the costume of the early part of the last century. The first tale relates to the time of Charles II.

117. THE PROTESTANT MARTYRS, OR THE BLOODY ASSIZES; giving an account of the lives, tryals, and dying speeches of all those eminent Protestants that suffered in the West of England by the sentence of that bloody and cruel Judge Jefferies; being in all 251 persons, besides what were hang'd and destroyed in cold blood. Containing also the Life and Death of James Duke of Monmouth, his birth and education; his actions both at home and abroad; his unfortunate adventure in the West; his letter to King James; his sentence, execution, and dying words upon the scaffold; with a true copy of the paper he left behind him. And many other curious remarks worth the reader's observation. 8vo. London, Printed by J. Bradford, at the Bible in Fetter-lane, n. d.

A chap-book of twelve leaves, with eleven woodcut portraits on the title-page.

118. THE BLASPHEMER'S PUNISHMENT, or the Cries of the Son of God to the whole World, being a true and faithful account of one Elizabeth Dover, a knight and baronet's daughter, twenty-one years of age, who never would believe that there was either God or Devil, heaven or hell, or any future state after this life was ended; till last Sunday was three weeks, as she was walking in the fields with some of her wicked companions swearing, If there is a devil, let me see him, that I may know him another time. 8vo. Aldermary Church-yard, 1785. (Five wood-cuts.)

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