

FUN UPON FUN ;

OR, THE

Comical and Merry Tricks

OF

Leper the Tailor.

IN TWO PARTS.



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THE
COMICAL TRANSACTIONS,
OF
LEPER the **TAILOR**

PART I.

LEPER's father lived in a village about six miles from Glasgōw, and died when he was but very young; he left a widow and three children, two daughters, and a son; Leper being the youngest, was greatly idoliz'd by his mother, who was a good soft natured woman, very industrious and followed the business of bleaching cloth.

As Leper grew up he grew a very mischievous boy, playing many tricks on the neighbourhood, such as tying cats to dogs' tails, breaking hens' legs, stopping people's lums, or chimney-tops; so that his poor mother was sadly vexed with complaints against him.

To get him kept from mischief, she prevailed with a tailor to take him an apprentice; he settled, and was very peaceable for some time, until he got so much

4
of his trade on his finger ends as he might pass for a journeyman, and then he was indifferent whether he staid with his master or not: his mistress gave him but little meat when he wrought at home, so he liked best to be in other houses, where he got meat and diversion.

Leper being resolved on revenge against his mistress for her thin kail, no kitchen, and little bread; for tho' flesh was boiled in the pot, there was none for poor Leper and his master, but a little bit on Sundays, and all the bones were kept and put in the pot, to make the broth through the week. Leper perceived always when she took off the pot, she turned her back and took out the flesh, and set it on a shelf in her own bedroom; one night after work, he steals out a pan, cuts a piece of flesh out of a dead horse, and then goes to a lime kiln, and boils it; next day his master being from home, his landlady and him being in the house, after she had set off the pot as usual, and takes out her bit of good beef, he goes out for some time, and then comes in, saying, the minister's lass is wishing to see you, to go directly and speak to her mistress. Off she goes in all haste, Leper runs and takes away

her bits of good meat, and lays down his horse flesh; and knowing she would return in a passion, and sit down with a soss in her cushioned chair, as she used, he takes a large pin, and staps it straight in through the cushion, with its head on the chair, and the point to her b——. So in she comes in a rage, and down she sits with all her weight on the pin-point, and then roars out murder! murder! for she was stickt in the a—: the neighbours came running in, and Leper went out with his bit of good beef, leaving the wives to doctor his landlady's doup, as they pleased; he still denied the doing of it, & his master believed it might happen accidentally, but the hoodie was very oft to be had before it was got hale again; and his landlady by eating of that horse beef, took such a loathing at flesh that Leper and his master got all the beef ever after, and his landlady turned one of the kindest mistresses a prentice could wish for.

There was a neighbour wife on whom Leper used to play tricks sometimes, for which she came and complained to his master and had him severely beaten several times; Leper resolved to be revenged on her; so one night he came to the back-

side of the house, (no more being in but herself) and took up a big stone, and runs along the rough wall with all his strength, which roared like thunder in the inside of the house, and frightened the wife so, that she thought the house was tumbling down about her lugs, and she ran out and sat down at a distance, looking every minute when the house would fall down, till her husband came home and persuaded her to go in, to whom she told the above story; 'hout tout, daft tapie,' said he, 'the house will stand these hundred years.' Leper knowing they were both in, comes and plays the same trick over again, which also frightened the goodman so much, that he cried out— "run Maggy, run, for my heart plays pitty patty." And they would not lodge in the house any more, till the masons convinced them of its sufficiency.

There was another neighbour who had a snarling cur dog, which bit Leper's leg; Leper resolved to be revenged on the dog, and so one night he catches the dog, and carries him to the kirk where the rope of the bell hung on the outside, so with his garter he tied the dog's fore foot to the rope, and left him hanging; the dog struggling to get free set the bell a-ringing.

which alarmed the whole village; every one cried out, "wonderful fire! wonderful fire! the devil is ringing the bell." When they saw the black colley hanging at the rope, I true it set the minister, and all the people to their prayers: but Leper fearing he would be detected by his garter, came to the minister's side, and asked the reverend gentleman what was the matter; indeed, my barn, said he, 'tis the deil ringing the kirk bell; says Leper I'll go and see him, for I never saw the devil: the minister cried stop the mad laddie, but Leper ran and looscd the dog, crying, its such a man's dog, which had the rope in its teeth; they all cried out, "the deil's i' the cur, the diel's i' the dog;" then took up stones and felled poor colley, and the devil got the blame of making the dog ring the bell.—This spread Leper's fame, for being one of the wisest and most courageous tailors that was in all the kingdom; and many shaking their heads, said, "it was a pity he was a tailor, but a captain or general of an army, as the devil could not fear him.

After this a farmer in the neighbourhood hearing the fame of Leper, how he had frightened the deil frae being a bell-

man, sent for him to an ale house, and drank with him very heartily, and told him he was sadly borne down by a spirit of jealousy against his wife: and a suspicion of her being too free with a servant he had before; and if he would keep it secret and learn him to find it out, he would give his mother a load of meal, to which Leper agreed; so he gave the poor supposed cuckold instructions how to behave. So home he goes and feigns himself very sick, and every day worse and worse, taking death to him; blesses his three small children, and charges his wife not to marry, until his children could do something for themselves. This hypocritical woman takes a crying, Aha! marry, she would never marry! no, no, there shall never a man lye by my side, or kiss my lips after thee, my ain dear lamb Johnny. Then he acts the dead man as well as he possibly could; the neighbours are called in, and he's fairly o'erseen, as the old saying is, before good neighbours. The sorrowful widow made sad lament, wrung her hands and tore her hair.—The reverend women about, began to dress the corpse, asked her for a shirt: Ay, ay, said she, he has twa new linen sarks, and

there is an auld ane in the bottoan o' the kist, that nathody can wear, ony thing's good enough for the grave; well, said they, we must have some linen for a winding sheet; a-well, quo she, I hae twa cut o' linen i' the kist neuk, but there's a pair o' auld linen sheets, hol'd i' the middle, may do well enough, I hae need to be carefu', I am a poor widow the day wi' three sma' bairns.

Well, the corpse is dressed, and laid on the tap of the big chest, while neighbours sat by her condoling her misfortune, and how the funeral raisins were to be provided: said one the coffin must needs be seen about first. Ay, ay, he has some new deals in the barn, he bought them to make a bed o', but we'll no break them, there's the auld barn door, and the caff kist will do well enough, ony thing's gude enough to gang to the grave wi'; but O quo she, send for Sandy, my honest auld servant, and he'll see every thing right done; I'll tell him where he will get-siller to do any thing wi', he's the lad that will not see me wranged; then Sandy comes wrying his face, and rubbing his eyes. O Sandy, there's a sad alteration here, and ba-a-a, she cries like a bitten

calf, O sira, will ye gang a' butt the house till I tell him what to do ; butt they went, and there she fell a-kissing of Sandy, and said, now, my dear, the auld chattering ghaist is awa and we'll get our will o' lither ; be as haining of every thing as ye can, for thou kens it's a' thy ain ; butt the corpse's sister and some other people coming in, ben they came to see the corpse, lifts up the cloth off his face, and seeing him all in a pour of sweat, said, heigh he's a bonny corp, and a lively like colour. When he could no longer contain himself to carry on the joke, butt up he got among them, a deal of people ran for it, and his wife cried out, O my dear do you ken me? Ay, you base jade and whore, better than ever I did. Jamps on the floor, gets his staff and runs after Sandy, and catches him in the fields, a little from the house ;—ate and drank with his sister and neighbours who had come to see his corpse ; and poor Sandy went home with a skin full of terror, and a sorting of sore bones, took a sore fever, and died a few days after, so he got quit of his cuckold, and Leper's mother got her load of meal.

Leper's mother was a careful industr

ous wife, but as the bye-word is "a working mother makes a dally daughter," and so it happened here, for she had two idle gleaket sluts of daughters, that would do nothing but lie in their bed in the morning, till, as the saying is, "the sun was like to burn a hole in their b———."

The old woman, who was bleaching some cloth, was very early at work in the mornings, and Leper's patience being worn out with the laziness of his two sisters, he resolved to play a trick on them, for their reformation; so he goes and gets a mortcloth, and spread it on the bed above them, and sends the dead bell through the town, inviting the people next day at four o'clock, afternoon, to the burial of his two sisters, for they had died suddenly: this brought all the neighbouring wives in, who one after another lifted up the mortcloth and said, with a sigh, they've gone to their rest, a sudden call indeed! Their aunt hearing of this sudden sudden news, came running in all haste, and coming where the jades' mither was at work, and was ignorant of the story, she cries out, Fye upon ye, woman, fye upon ye! What's the matter, sister, says she, what's the matter! I think you might let your

work stand for ae day, when your daughters are baith lying corpse. My bairns corpse! I am certain they went to bed hale and fair last night. But I tell you, says the other, the dead bell has been through warning the folks to the burial: then the mother cries out, O the villain! O the villain! that he did not send me word.—So they both ran, and the mother as soon as she entered the house, flies to the bed, crying, O my bairns, my dear bairns; on which the sluts rose up in a consternation, to the great surprise of the beholders, and the great mortification of the girls, who thought shame to set their noses out of doors, and to the great diversion of the whole town.

Leper and his master went to a gentleman's house to work, where there was a saucy house keeper, who had more ignorance and pride than good sense and manners; she domineered over her fellow servants in a tyrannical manner. Leper resolved to mortify her pride; so he finds an ant's nest, and takes their white eggs, grinds them to a powder, and put them into the dish her supper sowens was to be put in. After she had taken her supper, as she was covering the table, the

immock powder began to operate, and she let a great f— :— well done Margaret, says the Laird, your arse would take a cautioner. Before she got out of the chamber door she let fly another crack; then she goes to order her fellow-servant to give the Laird his supper, but before she could give the necessary directions, she gave fire again, which set them all laughing; she runs into a room herself, and there she played away her one gun battery so fast, that you would have thought she had been besieging the Havannah. The Laird and Lady came to hear the fun, they were like to split their sides at proud Maggy. So, next morning she left her place, to the great satisfaction of all her fellow-servants.

PART II.

Leper's landlady became very harsh to his master, and very often abused him exceedingly sore with her tongue and hands, and always called upon him for more money, and to have all the money

in her keeping; which Leper was sorry for. It so happened on a day, that the tailor had got a hearty drubbing both with tongue and tongs, that he pouched his thimble and was going to make a Queen of her: when she saw that, she cried out, O! will you leave a poor tender dying woman. But Leper knowing the cause of her ill nature better than his master did, advised him to take her on a fine day, like a mile out of town, and give her a walk, and he would stay at home, and study a remedy for her disorder.—Away they both go; but as she was always complaining for want of health, and that she was very weak, she cried frequently out, O! 'tis a crying sin to take a woman in my condition out o'er a door. During her absence, Leper goes and searches the bed, and below the bolster he gets a bottle of rare whisky, of which he takes a hearty pull, and then p—— in it to make it up; gets a half-penny worth of snuff, and puts it in also, shakes all together, and so sets it in it's place again.—Home they came, and she was exceedingly distressed as a woman could be, and cried out it was a horrid thing to take her out of the house. The

tailor seeing her so bad, thought she would have died, ran as fast as he could for a dram, but she in her hypocrisy pretended she could not take it, and called on him to help her to bed, into which he lays her; he was not well gone when she fell to her bottle, taking two or three hearty gluts, then she roars out murder, I'm poisoned, I'm poisoned. Bocking and purging began, and the neighbours were called in; she leaves her blood upon poor Leper, and tells how such an honest woman brought ae bottle as another was done, and the murdering loon had stolen it, and put in a bottle of poison instead of it. Leper took to his heels, but was pursued and carried before a justice of the peace, where he told all he had done, which made the justice laugh heartily at the joke; and the tailor's wife was well purged from her feigned sickness, laziness, and cursed ill-nature; for always when she began to curl her nose for the future, the tailor had no more to say, but Maggy mind the bottle.

Leper was working with a master-tailor in Glasgow, who hungered his men; and one morning, just when breakfast was set on the table, in comes a gentle-

man to try on a suit of clothes; the master being obliged to rise, desired the lads to say the grace themselves. Every one refused it, and put it to his neighbour, till Leper undertook it, and said with an audible voice, that the stranger gentleman might overhear him, as follows:— ‘Och, hoch! we are a parcel of poor beastly bodies, and we are as beastly minded; if we do not work we get nothing to eat; yet we are always eating and always fretting; singing and half starving is like to be our fortune; scarrings and scrapings are the most of our mouthfuls. We would fain thank thee for our fullness, if it were so, but the test of our benefactors are not worthy the acknowledging;—hey, Amen.’ The gentleman laughed till his sides were like to burst, and gave Leper half-a-crown to drink.

Leper was not long done with his apprenticeship till he set up for himself, and got a journeyman and an apprentice, was coming into very good business, and had he restrained his roguish tricks, he might have done very well. He and his lads being employed to work in a farmer’s house where the house wife was a great

miser, and not very cleanly in making
meat, and sneevled through her nose
greatly when she spoke.—In the morn-
ing, when she went to make their pot-
tage, she made a fashion of washing the
pot, which to appearance seemed to him
to have been amongst the first that had
been made; then she set it before the
fire till she went to the well, in which
time Leper looking into it, sees 2 great
holes stapped with clouts; he takes up
his goose, and holds it as high as his head,
then lets it drop into the pot, which
knocked out the bottom of it: presently
in comes the wife with the water, and
pours it into the pot, which set the fire-
side all in a dam, for still as she poured
in, it ran out; the wife being short-sight-
ed, or what they call sand blind, looks
into the pot, holds up both her hands,
and cries, “Losh preserve me, sirs, for
the grip atween the twa holes is broken.”
Says Leper, the pot was old enough; but
do you not ken that tailor’s pottage is
heavier than other men’s. Indeed I
believe it, but they say ye’re a warlock;
it’s Wednesday all the world o’er, and a
trusefu’ Wednesday to me indeed, my pot
might hae served me this fifty year, a see
wad it e’en.

This sport diverted Leper and his lads through the day; and after supper, knowing he was to get some dirty bed, as the cows and people lived all in one apartment, he chose rather to go home; and knowing the moon was to rise a little after midnight, he sat by the fire, told them many a fine story to drive away the time, and bade the wife make the bed to see how it might be: to save candle, she made it in the dark, directly on the floor behind where they sat, shaking down two bottles of straw; a calf which chanced to be lying on that place, and which the wife did not notice, was covered with the straw, and the bed clothes spread over it. The most of the family being in bed, the wife told them to go to bed also; but Leper knowing of the calf, said I'll make my bed come to me, on which the wife began to pray for herself and all that was in the house; so up he gets his elwand, and gives a stroke on the bed, which caused the brute to rise, and not seeing where to go, it fell a-crying and turned round, which set the whole house a-roaring out murder in their own tongue. The goodwife ran to the bed above the goodman, and the whole family cried out,

not knowing what it was; but Leper and his two lads whipt off the blankets, and the brute ran in among the rest unperceived; then Leper lighted a candle, and all of them got out of bed, paid Leper for his work, and more if he pleased, and begged him to go away, and take the devil with him. So home he went, but never was employed by that wife any more.

Leper had a peal of the best customers both in town and country; so one time he had occasion to go to the parish of Inchinan, to make a wedding suit for a gentleman, after they were finished he desired drink money for his lads, which the gentleman refused: Leper resolved to be even with him, so he goes to the hay-loft, where the groom slept, and takes his stockings, breeches, and jacket, sews them all together, and stuffs them full of hay: makes a head, puts a rope about the neck, and hangs it on a tree opposite to the laird's window; then goes to the laird and tells him that his groom had hanged himself, and that if he would open his window he would see him hanging; the laird was struck with astonishment, and knew not what to do; Leper advises him to bury him privately. The

laird said he had not a servant he could trust, so begged Leper to do it. Leper refuses, till the laird promises him a load of meal then Leper pulls out all the hay out of the grooms clothes; goes and gets his load of meal, and sends it to Glasgow,—then goes to the groom and says, lad, thy master is wanting thee. So the lad in all haste runs to see what his master wanted, the laird no sooner saw him open the door, than he cried out, avoid thee Satan, avoid thee Satan! The lad says, what's the matter? Did not you hang yourself this morning? Lord forbid! said the lad. The laird says, if thou be an earthly creature, take that tankard and drink; which he did; then says he to his master, Leper called me up; and said you wanted me in all haste. Ho, ho, said the laird, I find out the story now, if I had Leper I would run my sword thro' him; but Leper before that was gone for Glasgow with his meal.

Leper was in use to give his lads their Sunday's supper, which obliged him to stay from the kirk in the afternoon, he having neither wife nor servant maid; so one Sunday afternoon as he was cooking his pot, John Mucklecheek, and James

Puff and blaw, two civileers, having more
zeal than knowledge, came upon him,
and said,—What's the matter, sir, you
go not to the kirk? Leper replied, I
am reading my book and cooking my pot,
which I think is a work of necessity.
Then says the one to the other, don't
answer that graceless fellow, we'll make
him appear before his betters; so they
took the kail pot, and puts a staff through
the boole, and bears it to the Clerk's
Chamber. Leper, who was never at a
loss for invention, goes to the Principal
of the College's house, no body being at
home but a lass roasting a leg of mutton;
Leper says, my dear, will you go and
bring me a drink of ale, and I'll turn
the spit till you come back. The lass
was no sooner gone, than he runs away
with the leg of mutton, which served his
lads and him for their supper. When
the Principle came home, he was neither
to hand nor to bind he was so angry; so
on Monday he goes and makes complaint
to the Lord Provost, who sends two offi-
cers for Leper, who came immediately.
My Lord asked him how he dared to
take away the Principal's mutton? Lep-
er replied, how dared your civileers come

and take away my kail pot? I'm sure there is less in making a pot full of kail, than roasting a leg of mutton, law makers should not be law breakers, so I demand justice on the civileers? The Provost asked him what justice he would have? says he, make them carry the pot back again; and to the Principal, a leg of mutton will not make him and me fall out; so they were forced to carry the pot back again, and Leper caused the boys to huzza after them to their disgrace.

There was a barber who always plagued Leper, and called him prick-the-louse.—Leper resolved to be even with him, so he goes and buys three sheep-head, and sends for the barber, and told him that there were three fine Southland gentlemen just come to^rhis house, who much wanted to be shaved, and he assured him he would receive sixpence for each one of them;—this good news made the barber send for a dram;—Leper was still praising them for quiet good natured gentlemen. So Leper takes him to the bed where the sheep heads lay covered, and desired him to awaken them for they would not be angry, or say an ill word to him; the barber lifts the cover-

ing and sees the sheep heads, runs out cursing and swearing, and Leper crying after him, sheep head barber.

The barber resolved to be revenged on Leper, so when he was shaving Mess John, he tells him that Leper was the drunkenest fellow in the parish. So Mess John warns him to the session; Leper comes and says, what do yo want with me, Sir? Come away Leper, says Mess John; I hear a bad report of you; Me, Sir, I am sure they were not my friends that told you that.—Indeed, I am informed you are a drunkard.—I a drunkard, you have not a soberer man in your parish: Stop Sir, I will tell you how I lead my life—in the morning I take a choppin of ale and a bit of bread, that I call my morning; for breakfast I generally take a herring and a choppin of ale, for I cannot sup brose like my ads; the herring makes me dry, so at eleven hours I take a pint, and sometimes three choppins; at supper I take a bit of bread and cheese and a pint and so go to bed. Mess John says, its extravagant Sir, its exeessive drinking, I allow you take one half of it every day, for a quarter of a year. Says Leper, I'll try it, and

come back and tell you. At the end of the quarter he draws out his account, and goes to Mess John, who was sitting with his elders in the Session-house, and says; Sir, I have a demand on you; on me, Sir; Yes, on you, Sir; Don't you remember you allowed me so much drink for a quarter of a year, and I want the money. Am I to pay your reckoning, Sir? You allowed it, and if you won't pay it I'll take you before the Provost. The elders advised him to pay it or he would be affronted; so Leper got the money. When he was at the door, he says, Sir, will you stand another quarter; Get away, says Mess John, and don't trouble me. Leper says, I am sure you may, for I am always twopence to your penny.

THE END.