

# Scots Piper's Queries,

OR

# John Falkirk's

# CARRICHES.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

## *His Comical and Witty Jokes.*

When in Courtship with an old Fiddler's Widow, who wanted all the teeth. With a copy of a Love Letter he sent to her, who was commonly called Flinging Betty:

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Old John Piper if you desire,  
To read at leisure by the fire,  
I will please the hairs and keep them langbing,  
And mind the Old Goodwife o' her daffin.

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Edinburgh, Printed by J. Morren.

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*This Catechism deserves no Creed,  
It's only for boys that will not read  
On wiser books. them to instruct!  
Let droll John their fancy cook.*

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The Scots Piper's Queries, &c.

Q. **W**HAT is the wisest behaviour of ignorant persons?

A. To speak of nothing but what they know, and to give their opinion of nothing but what they understand.

Q. What time is a scolding wife at the best?

A. When she is fast asleep.

Q. What time is a scolding wife at the worst?

A. When she is that wicked as to tear the hair out of her head, when she can't get at her neighbour's, and thro' perfect spite bites her tongue with her own teeth: my hearty wish is, that all such wicked vipers may ever do so.

Q. What is the effectual cure and infallible remedy for a scolding wife?

A. The only cure is to get out of the hearing of her, but the infallible remedy is to nail her tongue to a growing tree, in the beginning of a cold winter night, and so let it stand till sun-rising next morning. She'll become one the peaceablest women that ever lay by a man's side.

Q. What time of the year is it that there are most holes open?

A. In harvest when there are most stubbles.

Q. At what time is the cow heaviest?

A. When the bull is on her back.

Q. Who was the goodman's muckle cow's calf's mother.

A. None but the muckle cow herself.

Q. What is the likest thing to a man and a horse?

A. A tailor on a mare's back.

Q. What is the hardest dinner that a tailor ever laid his teeth on?

A. His own goose, though never so well boiled and roasted.

Q. How many tods tails will it take to reach to the moon?

A. One, if it be long enough.

Q. How many sticks gangs to the bigging of a craw's nest?

A. None, for they are all carried.

Q. How many whites will a well made pudding-prick need?

A. If it be well made it needs no more.

Q. Who was the father of Zebedee's children?

A. Who but himself.

Q. Where did Moses go when he was full fifteen years old?

A. Into his sixteenth.

Q. How near related is your aunt's good-brother to you?

A. No nearer than my own father.

Q. How many holes are there in a hen's doup?

A. Two.

Q. How prove you that?

A. There is one for the dung and another for the egg.

Q. Who is the best for catching rogues?

A. None so fit as a rogue himself.

Q. Where was the usefulest fair in Scotland kept?

A. At Mulguy.

Q. What sort of commodities were there?

A. Nothing but ale and ill wicked wives.

Q. How was it abolished?

A. Because those that went to it once would go to it no more.

Q. For what reason?

A. Because there was no money to be got for them, but fair barter, wife for wife, and he who put away his wife for one fault, got another with two as bad.

Q. What was the reason that in those days a man could put away his wife for pissing the bed and not for sh--g it?

A. Because he could shute it away with his foot and lye down.

Q. What is the reason now a days that men court, cast, marry, and remarry so many wives, and keep but only one in public at last?

A. Because private marriages are become as common as smuggling, and cuckolding the kirk no more thought of than to ride a mile or two on his neighbour's mare! men get will and wale of wives, the best portion, and properest person is preferred, the first best, the weak to the worst, and the

whom he does not love, he shutes away with his foot, and lies down with whom he pleases.

Q. How will you know the bairns of our town by others in the kingdom?

A. By their ill breeding and bad manners

Q. What is their behaviour?

A. If you ask them a question in civility, if were but the road to the next town, they will tell you to follow your nose, and if go wrong curse the guide.

Q. Are young and old of them no better?

A. All the odds lies in the difference, for if you ask a child to whom he belongs, or who is his father, he will tell you to kiss his father's a—e.

Q. What kind of creatures are kindliest when they meet?

A. None can exceed the kindness of dogs when they meet in a market.

Q. And what is colleys conduct there?

A. First they kiss others mouths and noses, smell about, and at last of all, they are so kind as to kiss other below the tail.



Q What is the coldest part of a dog?

A. His nose.

Q. What is the coldest part of a man?

A. His knees.

Q. What is the coldest part of a woman? A. The back part of her body.

Q. What's the reason that these three parts of men, women and dogs are coldest?

A. Fabulous historians write, that there was three little holes broke in Noah's ark, and that the dog put his nose in one, and another the man put his knee in it, a third and biggest hole broke, and the woman set her backside into it; and these parts being exposed to the cold blast, makes them always cold ever since.

Q And what remedy does the man take to warm his knees?

A. He holds them towards the fire, and when in bed draws his shirt over them.

Q. What does the woman do to warm their cold parts?

A. The married women turn their backside about to the goodman's belly; virgins, and those mad for mar-

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riage, the heat of their maiden-heads keeps them warm; old matrons and whirl'd o'er maidens, widows, and widows bewitched, hold up their cold parts to the fire.

Q. And what remedy does the poor dog take for his cold nose?

A. Staps it in below his tail, the hottest bit in his body.

Q. What is the reason that dogs are worse on chapmen, than on any other strange people?

A. It is said the dogs have three accusations against the chapmen, handed down from father to son, or from one generation of dogs to another: the first is as old as *Æsop*, the great wit of Babylon, the dog having a law-suit against the cat, gained the plea, and coming trudging home with the decret below his tail, a wicked chapman throwing his elwand at him, he let it fall, and so lost his privileges. The second is, because in old times the chapmen used to buy dogs and kill them for their skins. The third is, when a chapman was quartered in a



farmer's house, that night the dog lost his property, the licking of the pot.

Q. What creature resembles most a drunken piper ;

A. A cat when she sips milk ; she always sings, and so does a piper when he drinks good ale.

Q. What is the reason a dog runs twice round about before he lies down

A. Because he does not know the head of his bed from the foot of it.

Q. What creature resembles most a long, lean, ill-looking, greasy fac'd lady for pride ?

A. None so much as a cat, who is continually spitting in her lufe and rubbing her face, as many of such ladies do their brown leather.

Q. Amongst what sort of creatures will you observe most of a natural law ?

A. The hare and the hind meet at one certain day in the year ; the broad goose lays her first egg on Eastern's Even, old stile ; the crows begin to build their nests the first of March, old stile ; the swans observe matrimony, and if the female die, the male dares not take up with another, or the rest

will put him to death ; all the birds in general join in pairs and keep so ; but the dove resembles the adulterer, for when the she one turns old, he pays her away and takes another ; the locusts observe military order and march in bands ; the frogs resemble pipers and preachers, for the young ride the old to death.

Q. Who are the merriest and heartiest people in the world ?

A. The sailors, for they'll be singing and cursing one another, when the waves, their graves, are going over their heads.

Q. Which are the disorderliest creatures in battle ?

A. Cows and dogs, for they all fall upon them that are neathmost.

Q. Who are the vaineest sort of people in the world ?

A. A barber, a tailor, a young soldier and poor dominie.

Q. What is the great cause of the barber's vanity ?

A. His being admitted to trim noblemens chafts, thyke their sculls, take kings by the nose, and hold a razor to

to his very throat, which no subject else dare do.

Q. What is the great cause of the tailor's pride?

A. His making of peoples new clothes, of which every person, young and old, are proud of, then who can walk vainer than a tailor carrying home a gentleman's clothes.

Q. What is the cause of a young foldier's pride?

A. When he lifts, he is free from his mother's correction, and the hard usage of a bad master, has liberty to curse, swear, whore, and every other thing, until convinc'd by four halberts and the drummer's whip, that he has now got a military and civil law above his head, and perhaps worse masters than ever.

Q. What is the cause of the poor dominie's pride?

A. As he is the teacher of the young and ignorant, he supposes no man knows what he knows, and the boys call him master, therefore he thinks himself a great man.

Q. What sort of a song is it is that

sung without a tongue, and its notes are understood by people of all nations.

A. It is a fart, which every body knows to be but wind.

Q. What is the reason, that young people are vain, giddy-headed and airy, and not so humble as in former times?

A. Because they are brought up and educated after a more haughty strain, by reading fables, plays and romances, gospel books, such as the psalm book, proverbs and catechisms are like old almanacks: Nothing is now in vogue, but fiddle, flute, Tory and Babylonish tunes; our plain English speech corrupted with beaush cants, don't, won't, nen, and ken, a jargon worse than the Yorkshire dialect.

Q. Why is swearing become so common amongst the Scots people?

A. Because so many lofty teachers come from the south among us, where swearing is practised in its true grammatical perfection, hot oaths, new struck off, with as bright a lustre as a new quarter guinea.

Q. How will you know the bones

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of a mason's mare at the back of a  
dyke, amongst the bones of an hun-  
dred dead horse?

A. Because they are made of wood.

Q. Which are the two things not  
to be spared, and not to be abused?

A. A soldier's coat and a hired  
horse.

*The end of John Falkirk's Carriches.*

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AN old gentleman and his two sons  
being in a company, his eldest  
son sitting next to him, spoke a word  
which highly displeased his father, for  
which his father gave him a hearty  
blow on the side of the head; a well,  
said he, I will not lift my hand to  
strike my parent, but he gives his o-  
ther brother, that sat by him, a blow  
on the ear, saying, give that about by  
way of a drink till it comes to my fa-  
ther again.

A sailor travelling between Edin-  
burgh and Linlithgow, which is 12  
long computed miles; and as he was  
setting out in the morning about eight  
o'clock, he saw a vain-like young spark,

go running past him, which he never minded, but kept jogging on at his own leisure: and as he was going into Linlithgow about twelve o'clock, up comes the young spark, and asked the sailor what o'clock it was, Why, says the sailor, I see you have a watch and I have none, what is it? Out he pulls his watch, ho! said he, it's directly twelve, and what do you think, it was half an hour after ten or I came out of Edinburgh, I have walked it in an hour and a half; it is pretty well tript, says the sailor, but pray sir, what man of business are you? O! said he, I am a watch maker. I was thinking so, said the sailor, for you have made the watch answer your feet, for they cannot answer a right watch, and I suppose your tongue cannot keep time with either of them; do you remember where you passed me this morning about eight o'clock? O yes, said he, and off he went.

A certain old reverend priest being one night at supper in a gentleman's house, and for one article having eggs, the server of the table laid a cloth on



every one's knee for to hold their egg in when hot ; when supper was over the priest lookt down between his legs, and seeing the white cloth, thought it was his own shirt tail, and verly slyly staps it in to his breeches, bit and bit, which the landlady and the maid observed, but was ashamed to tell him ; so home he went with the servit in his breeches, and knew nothing of it till going to bed, when it fell from him : his wife enquired how he came by it, he could not tell, but was surprised how he came to have more bulk in his breeches than formerly, but observing the name they sent it back again, the priest pleaded to be excused, owned himself only a thief in ignorance.

As two maids were coming from milking their cows, one of them stepping over a stile, fell and spilt the whole pailful of milk from her head. O, said she what will I do, what will I do ? O, said the other maid let it go, who can help it now, you can't take it up again, it's not your maidenhead. My maidenhead, said she, if it were my maiden head, I would think no-

thing of it, many a time I have lost my maidenhead with great pleasure, and it ay came back again to its ain place, but I'll never gather up my milk.

A drover who frequented a public inn in the north of England, as he passed and repassed, agreed with the servant maid of the house for a touch of love; for which he gave her a six and thirty shilling piece: On the next morning he mounted his horse, without asking a bill or what was to pay; but sir, said the landlord, you forgot to pay your reckoning: Well minded, sir; I forgot my change; the maid was called in all haste; yes, said she I got it, but it was not for that, throws it down and off she goes: her mistress gave her the challenge, she told her it was so, but she should be up with him. Twelve months after, he coming past with his drove, puts up at the same inn, as formerly: The girl then goes to a neighbour woman, who had a young child about three months old, lays it on the table, saying, sir, there's the change of your six and thirty and

away she comes: The child cries, and the bell's rung, the landlord was ready enough to answer. O sir, said the drover, call her back, for this will ruin my family, and crack my credit; but sir, said the girl, you thought nothing to ruin my character and crack my maidenhead. Peace, peace, said he, my dear, here's one hundred and fifty pounds, and take away the child and trouble me no more. Well, said she, I will take it, and you'll make more of buying cows than maidenheads; so away she came with the money and returned the borrowed child to its own mother.

Three merry companions having met on a Saturday night at an ale-house, (a hatter, a shoe-maker, and a tailor) where they drank heartily all that night, and to morrow until mid-day: and their beats were, who had the lovingest wife. So they agreed for a trial of their good nature, that every man should do whatever his wife bid him do as soon as ever he went home; who did not as she ordered him was to pay all the reckoning, which

came to seven and sixpence ; or if all of them did as their wives bid them, then they were to pay all alike. So on this agreement they all came away, first to the hatter's house, and in he goes like a mad man, dancing and jumping round the floor, his wife was taking off the pot and setting it on the floor, he still dancing about, ding over the pot with thy madness ; so he gives it a kick and over it went, and that saved him, as he had done what his wife bade him do. Then away they go to the tailor's house, in he goes dancing likewise, but his wife fell a scolding him : O, says he, give me a kifs? kifs my arse you drunken rogue, said she, then to her flies and lays her on the bed up, with her petticoats and kisses her arse before them all, and that saved him. Then away they went to the shoe-maker's, and in he goes very merry, and dancing about as he saw the other two do, saying come my dear heart, and give me a kifs? Go hang yourself you drunken dog, said she, so he must either go and hang himself directly, or pay the reckoning.

An honest Highlandman not long since, not much acquainted with law, fell out with one of his neighbours, and to the law they went; he employed one advocate, and his opposite another, and as they were debating it in court before the judges, the highlandman being there present, a friend on his side asked him how he thought it would go, or who would gain the day, indeed says the highlandman his law man speaks well, and my lawman speaks well, I think we'll both win, and the judges will lose, for they speak but a word now and then.

A young woman by the old accident having got herself with child, was called to the session for so doing, and after one elder another examining her how she got it, and where she got it, and what tempted her to get it; and no doubt the deed wad get her for the getting it: and last of all the minister fell a enquiring how she got it, which run the poor lass out of all patience about the getting, says the priest, tell me plainly where it was gotten? I tell you, said she it was gotten in the byre,



at a cow's stake, and what other place would you want to ken about? but said he, did he not tye you to the cow's stake? No, said she, I did not need any tying; and how far was between the byre and the house? Just but and ben, up and down twa staps of a stane stair: Then says the priest why did you not cry to the folks in the house? indeed sir, says she, I could not get cried for the laughing at it.

A soldier being on a forlough from the north of Scotland, having got no breakfast, fell very hungry by the way and no alehouse being near, came in to a farmer's house and wished them to sell him some bread, or any kind of victuals; to which the surly goodwife replied, she never sold any bread, and was not going to begin with him, he had but three miles and a bittock to an alehouse, and he might walk on, as she did fair enough when she gied bits of bread for naething to beggars, tho' she gied nane to idle soldiers, he had naething to do there awa'. Hout, said the goodman, gie'm a ladlesfu' o' our kail, he's been somebody's bairn



before he was a soldier. What! said she, there's not a drop in the pot, they are a' in the plate before you; then gie'm a spoon and let him sup wi' us. The soldier gets a spoon, and thinking he could sup all he saw, the first sup he took, he spouted back again in to the plate, and cries out, O my fore mouth, the hide's yet all off since I had the clap; every one throwing down his spoon, the soldier got all to sup himself; the wife stood cursing and scolding all the time, and when he was done burnt both plate and spoon to prevent the clap. So the soldier came off with a full belly, leaving the wife dressing the goodman's rigging with a four footed stool for bidding him sup.

A churlish man and a virtuous wife, one time fell out, because the wife had given something to the poor, what, said he mistress, I'll let you know there is nothing about this house but what is mine: Well, well, goodman, then you will let me have nothing, take it all and give me peace; so away they went to bed, and the goodwife turned her backside toward the goodman, and as

he was falling asleep, she draws up her smoke and lets fly in the goodman's shirt tail, which awakened him in as great fright as he had been shot; ay, ay, woman, what are ye about? what am I about said she: dear woman you are filling the bed. Not I goodman, for when my arse was my own I took care of it, and take ye care of it now, it is yours. O rise woman and clean the bed, and keep your arse and a' the liberty ye had before, and more, if ye want it; feigh, what's this, I'm a' dirt.

A ships crew being one time in great distress at sea, by reason of a violent storm and being all fallen down to prayer, expecting every moment to go to the bottom: there happened to be an old gentleman, a passenger on board with them, who had a great big red nose, with drinking ale and whisky; and being all at their last prayers as they thought, a little boy burst out into a loud laughter; O thou thoughtless rogue, said the captain, what makes the laugh, seeing us all on the point of perishing? Why said the boy, I cannot but laugh for to think what fine

sport it will be when we are all drowning, to see how that man's red nose will make the water biz when it comes about it; at which words they all fell a laughing and cherished the crew, so that they made another attempt to weather out, and got all safe ashore at last.

*John Falkirk's Love Letter to the Fiddler's Widow*

My lovely Bet, the beauty of old age, thy hoary head, and louching shoulders incline to mortality; yet I will compare thee to the Eagle that has renewed her youth, or leek with a white head and a green tail, this comes to thee with my kind compliments for kisses of thy lips and the kindness I had for thy late bed fellow, Fiddler Pate, my brother pensioner; ah! how we drank others healths with the broe of the bucketewes, we brought from boughts of the German Boors; but it's nonsense to praise the dead, when in the dust, yet a better Vialer never freeded on a silken cord, or kittledacat's trypes wi' his finger-ends,

his elbows were supple as an eel, and his fingers dabbed at the jigging end like a hungry hen picking barley : I seldom or ever saw him drunk, and keep him from whisky, or whisky from him; except that night he trysted the free-stone pair of breeches from Joseph the mason : and now, my dear Beyssy, he's got them, he's got them, for a free-stane covers his body, holds him down, and will do; and now, now my dainty thing, match for matrimony, come tak me now or tell me now. I'm in danger, I'll wait nae langer ; I say be clever, either now or never, it's a rapture of love which does me move, I'll have a wife, or by my life, if she should be blind and cripple ; I'll sell my wind for her meat and fun, the like ne'er gaed down her thrapple ; so now Bessy I love you, my love lies upon you ; and if you love me not again, some ill chance come upon you, as I am flyting free, I am both in love and banter, or may your rumple rust for me ; I have sworn it by my chanter.

F I N I S.