Merry PIPER;

OR, THE POPISH

FRYAR & BOY.

In TWOPARTS.



The Fryar and the Boy.

PART

OU that in pleasant tales delight, Each long and tedious winter's night, read on this book I pray. The fancies which in this you'll find, will make you laugh your fill, __ They'll cure a melancholy Mind, beyond a Doctor's skill. A cup af nut brown nappy ale, by a good fire fiste. () 17 11 Attended with a merry tale, is good at New-year's tide : And likewife all winter long, wl en friends together meet, For why, a tale, or merry long, furpaffes mufic (weet. Now fuch a one, any friends, is this delightful merry tract, It will make you laugh I wist, un ill your fides do crack An honest 'Squire in Huntingdonshire, three wives he did enjoy; Now, by the first it doth appear, he had a pretty boy. With rofy checks and curled hair, Lis eye brows fomething fad ; Now if I may the truit declare, he was a wirry lad. His tender mother being dead, it gricy'd the father fore. For he a shrew at length did wed, who did like thunder roar.

She look'd on her young fon-in-law, with fuch an evil eye.
That if he any thing had done, ftraight in his face fhe'd fly.
Tho' he tubmitted to her will, in hopes her love to gain, Yet fhe did fill the tyrant play, his labour was in vain.
The flaw probles flee herd him.

The step mother she hated him, and so malicious grew,

That fure I am the was a limb, of the infernal crew

Brown bread and four beer, God wot, fine did for him prepare,

While the had geele and capons hot, with other dainty fare:

Nay, tho' his meat and drink was poor, he had not half enough,

Yet if he feem'd to crave for more, his ears she straight would cust.

His father lov'd him paffing well, as of a truth I know; And yet, good man, he could not tell,

And yet, good man, he could to what way to tame a threw. A weary life her husband led,

about his fon, for why?

Each night when he did come to bed,

Each night when he did come to bed this was her constant cry, O put this wicked boy away,

let him be firmly tied To some hard maller, that he may,

be fure to thrash his bide:
At home, taid the, he will be spoil d,
with pleasure and delight:

And thus against him she revil d, both morning, noon, and night.

The tender father thus did fay, my child s too young as yet,

After another year he may, far greater wages get. We have a lufty lad you know, who does our cattle keep, The field be rambles too and fro, then lies him down to fleep : But there he ball no longer roam, good wife, as God's my shield; Ill find him other work at home. and Jack Shall trudge the field. I give content, the reply'd, and if the same you'll do, Against his going I'll provide, a bag and bottle toe; For the was highly pleas'd at this joy fat on her brow ; Thought the I can my friar kill, while Jack's among the cows. The 'Squire to his fon did call, and told him his intent : He cry'd, with all my heart, I shall, with joy and merriment. For he was dutiful indeed, Right willing to obey; Next morning he arose with speed, inft by the break of day, Thinking no living creature wrong; Sining and whittling all along, teigh ho, away the mare. patt away the morning foor, all in a pleafant mood; and then he fat himfelf down at noon. to eat his homely food. Then looking on his flender flore, of barley, bread, and meat And finding that it was but poor,

Which done he put it up again, tecure from any fight Saying his hunger should remain, till he came home at night. He fat upon hill hard by, to pais the time away; At length an aged man drew nigh, whole palley head was grey. God fave thee, ion, the man reply'd, and fhield the from all ill; Thank you, father, the lad cry'd, for all your kind good will. Quoth he, I am a palmer poor, fad hunger is my grief, Then halt thou any food in store, to yield me some relief? The boy laid, father, fince you crave that imail request of me, To such poor victuals as I have, right welcome you shall be. The little boy his denner drew, and gave it the old man, Saying, dear father, pray fa co eat freely if you can. He was not very hard to pleafe, but fed with muckle joy; Now when his stomach was at cale, he thank'd the little boy. and fince, thou didft not refuse to do what thou haft done. Three things, whatever you choose, I ll give to thee, my fon. The first thing I'd have you bestow on me without dispute,

It give to thee, my ion.
The first thing I'd have you bested on me without dispute,
Pray let it he a cunning bow,
with which I birds my shoot,
Thrus shalt have a bow,;
I have it here in store my son,

No archer living ever had to fure a one before. Take notice well of what I fay, fuch virtues are in this. That wink or look another way. the mark thou shalt not mils. Now when he had the bow in hand, with arrowes by his fide, The little lad did smilling stand, and modefly reply'd. I wish I had a pipe likewise, tho' it were ne'er to fmall, The which I trow would me fuffice. for nothing more I'd call. A pipe I have for thee, my boy, the like was never known. So full of mirth and mickle joy, that whenfoever 'tis blown. All living creatures that do hear the fweet and pleafant found, They shan't be able to forbear, but dance and Ikip around. Now tell me what shall be the third, the' it be ne'er fo dear ; Refolv'd I am to keep my word, fpeak up, and do not fear. The boy then Imilling answered, No you are too kind and free; I have a pleafant pipe and bow, which enough for me. But ion, I folemly do iwear, that you three things shall have, And therefore now in brief declare, what you request and crave. Then faid the boy, I do protest, a step mother have I, Who will not let me live at rest, the Iwears continually,

Whene'er my father gives me meat, her frowns on me she'll cast, Withing that ev'ry bit I eat, might truly be my last,

When e'er the flares upon me fo, thinking to keep me under,

I wish her bum might then let go, a crack like roaring thunder. Quoth the old man, it shall be so,

as you shall hear and fee : For by the mais I'll make her know

what 'tis to frown on thee. Whene'er she looks upon thy face

with any shew of Icorn, Then to her thame and high difgrace,

her arfe shall wind the horn So loud, that all the Randers by,

shall bear her with dildain, Laughing at her continually, yet shall she trump again.

My bleffing now ar last receive, may you in tafety dwell,

And therewithall I take my leave, my little lad farewel

I thank you, fa her, faid the boy, all happiness on you;

Long life also may you enjoy,

and to fare well, adeu.

Now when the fun was almost fet, young lack would homeward go; And being in a merry fit, his pipe he needs must blow.

The cows began to caper ther, the bulls and oxen too,

And to sid five and twenty men, who came the fight to view, Along the road he piping went,

the cows came dancing after ;-

This was a fit of merriment. which cauf'd a deal of laughter! Far why, a fryar in his gown, bestride the red cow's back And fo went dancing thro, the town, after the wag young Jack. Unto the close he led them straight, to take their night's repole, So having lock,d and barr'd the gate, he homeward piping goes: Now when the hall he did come near to pipe he did forbear, Because his loving father dear, he fat at supper there. Father, faid he, this lummer's day, with care I keept your nout, And I am almost starved I sav. for nothing have I eat ; At noon I fat me down indeed, upon a little hill, My food was bad, I could not fedd, io I am fasting sill. The 'Squire took a capen hot, and gave it to his fon. Saying, thou fhalt not be forgot, The boy began to play his part, and tore it limb from limb: The step-mother was vex'd at heart, for still the hated him. Then with a scornful envious eye, upon the lad fhe frown'd; With that a cracker The let fly, it feem'd to shake the ground : She blush'd, while they made pleafant the little boy reply'd, (Iport : My mother has a good report you hear, at her back fide.

Sure had there been a cannon-ball, with fuch a force it flow,

It would have beaten down the Wall, perhaps the chimney too.

She gave another curled look,

then straight her bum did roar; At which the very table shook, which sham'd her more and more.

which tham'd her more and more.

The lad reply'd, dear mother, take
a cup before your parting.

a cup before your parting, For I am confident you'll break,

your twatling-strings with farting. What it't you ail? at my command,

ftep mother tell me true, Sure such a one in all the land,

Sure such a one in all the land, before I never knew

The 'Squire cry'd you make us deaf, wife take another room,

For fear you choke and stop your breatly, with such a strange persume,

Immediately the went away,

with vilage grols and grim; Swearing that Jack for this should pay,

flic'd be reveng,d on him.

A fryar whom she thought a faint,
came there to lodge that night,

To whom the made a fad complaint, how Jack had tham'd her quite,

Said the, for tweet St. Francis's take, to morrow in the field,

Thrash him till you his bones do break,

no show of pity yield.

The fryar swore by his bald pate, he'd make him blind and lame.

And not allow him for to prate, when to the field he came.

Next morning with the early lark, the little boy arole;

(40) And drove the cattle through the parks, away to the field he goes, The fryar did not rife to foon, 'cause of the morning air;

But yet before it was high noon, he ran and found him there. For all alone this little lad, was flanding by his cows;

The fryar he was raving mad, and knit his ragged brows.

Said he, young villain bluth for tham !. why do you filent fland?

What have you done to your step dame, come tell me out of hand? Now if yourfelf you cannot clear,

take nottice it is fo;

I'll make a cripple of you here, you shall not stand or go. The boy reply'd don't threaten me,

nor make to much ado;

My step mother, I know what she is, full as well as you.

Sir fryar, be not in a rage, nor fuch hard things report

For the 1 am of tender age

Ill shew you pleasant sport. Scand by, and you shall see me shoot, you pheafant of the tree;

The mark I ll hit without difpute, and give the bird to thee.

' This pretty pheafant perching fat, ' upon a thorny briar,

' Now Jack he had no tooner fliot, but ftraightway ran the fryar.

" He being eager of his prey,

Tack on his pipe began to play,

which made him fkip and dance.

- He was not able to forbear, but danc'd the bush about ; " His hands and eyes the brier tore, and fcratch'd him by the inout. ' A woeful pickle he was in,

with dancing through and through;

6 His cloaths is tore, and then his fkin,

' his privy members too Ran down with streams of purple gore,

' his buni did likewise bleed ;

All over him he was as fore, as if he had been dead.

The fryar skip'd and caper'd high; ' while Jack he laughing stands,

The fryar then aloud did cry,

and held up both his hands.

Sweet gentle John some pity take, 's and lay your piping by;

Even for dear St. Francis s fake.

· let me not dancing die.

Onoth he I'll not wrong you, no, 'if thou wilt fet me free:

O then laid Jack, Ill let thee go, ' pray come no more to me.

Out of the bush the fryar came, ' all in a tattered trim;

With a tore thirt and bloody bones, ono bedlam like to him.

Some people did before him flee.

' fome pelted him with stones:

For most of them took him to be · raw head and bloody bones.

Then home he went with scarce a rag. to hide his naked back,

Thus he had little cause to brag, how he had crippled Jack.

6 The step mother fretted at heart,

to fee him in that cafe,

1 (- 12) From head to foot in every part, he had not one free place. Where hast thou been the woman cry'd, thou art in such a trim? With Jack the devil, he reply'd, but none can conquer him. . She at her husband then did scold, ' and cry'd, your curied fon " Deals with the devil, for behold * what the young elf has done. The 'Squire cry'd, what has he done, f ipeak now before ! go; " Can I believe that Jack my lon, ' could flea the fryar fo. " The fryar cry'd, he did by chance, a cunning plot contrive; 6 Amongst the thorns he made me dance, still I was flean alive 4 A pipe he has that founds to tweet, that when the same he blew, 4 I could not stand still on my feet, but caper'd through and through. " The 'Squire cry'd, if thou had'lt died, ' in such a dancing mood, Then had it been a cruel finthe boy was tomething rude. Iack bringing home the cows at night, his father straight did call, · For him to go with all his might, before him in the hall. · 6 What is the cause of this complaint? ' tell me and do not lie; · e Here you have almost kill'd a fairt; ' Jack made him this reply.' A fit of mirth I play'd indeed, and he was pleas'd to dance ; H might have taken better beed,

and not in briars prance.

His father then the pipe would hear, and Jack reply'd you finall;
The fryar he did quake for fear, and wrug his hands withall.
He cry d, and then his eyes did weep,

that word kills me almost; Yet if you needs must hear the pipe, then bind me to a post.

- then bind me to a post. Now in the middle of the ball,

a stout pillar was there, And least this precious faint might fall they bound him tast with care

All laughed to see the fryar stand, yet Jack did little say,

But took his pleasant pipe in hand, a merry strain to play.

No fooner did they hear the found, but they began to foring,

Making the very stools rebound, the hall with mirth did ring,

Nay, some of them so high did hop, without the least regard; That they against the cicling top,

did hit their heads full hard.

Some hit their nose, fome their chins,

firlying to caper higher; Some o'er the table broke their shins,

iome tumbled in the fire.

The 'Iquire he was pleas dat heart, he lik d the merry jest,

And in the dancing bore a part, es well as all the reft

The wife danc'd on the fquire's back and to increase the sport,

Whenever she cast her eyes on Jack, her bush gave loud report.

The fryar he came almost dead, whilst others danc'd their fill,

(14) Against the pillar bang'd his head, for he could not stand still. His ragged flesh the ropes did tear; and likewise from his crown, With many bangs and bruites there the blood ran tricking down Into the street Jack piping went, and they came darking after And the' with labour almost spent, this fill'd the town with laughter And also every neighbour round, came dancing out of door, For fuch a fweet and pleafant found they never heard before. With very hafte some did break locks, that pleasure to pursue, Some in their shirts and some in smocks, this was a jovial crew. There did they caper in the street, come lame that could not go; Did dance upon their hands and feet, and joggling to and fro. Quoth Jack, I'll lay my pipe afide dear father if you pleafe, I pray thee do, fweet fon, he cry'd, and let us take our cale. Now have I ken a jovial crew, I speak it to thy praile, Such mirth as this I never knew. _ before in all my days. The fryar he broke loofe and came. just as the dance was done. And the' his limbs were almost lame, unto the boy he run And faid, for all your witchcraft here, and vain delightful fport, I fummons you to appear, in our religious court

On Friday, fee you do not fail to meet me at that place; The court I know will hear my tale, and bring thee to difgrace. Then quoth the lad, as for my part,

a fig for future forrow.

I'd meet you there with all my heart
if F.iday was to morrow.

On Friday when the court was let, the dancing fryar came,

And Jack his holy father met, and likewife his step-dame.

The people all both far and near, came flocking to the place,

They being all refolv'd to hear poor Jack the piper's cafe.

Some causes there was read that day, against both priest and clerk,

And of young girls that run astray, with gallants in the dark.

The process they all buty were,

Jack's step mother went in,
So d'd the freeze standing there.

So did the fryar; flanding there, his tale he did begin

A wicked boy I here have brought,

A wicked boy I here have brought pray take him in hand,

For he has my destruction wrought, as you shall understand.

He is a witch. I know it well, a little devil too,

If there be e'er a one in hell; for he has made me rue. The step-mother did then complain,

about a minute after,
But foon her bum did trump amain,

But foon her bum did trump amain which fet all in a laughter.

The proftor taid, speak on good wife, and never blush for this,

16 She leads a very modest life, that never does amils. With shame she then held down her head, and stood like one that's dumb For the, God wot, began to dread, the roaring of the bum. O shameless lad, quoth Fryar Stone. an ill death may'ft thou die, For this thy wicked art alone, that makes her pellets fly. The fryar then aloud did call, upon the opon court, And faid, this boy will shame us all, by his unlawful fport. A pipe he has I do declare, and those that shall it hear, They han't the power to forbear, but caper without fear. A proctor faid, what! fay'ft thou fo ! his pipe I fain would hear; Come, little Jack, thy cunaing flow, play with a merry cheer. The fryar cry'd, not to I pray, for, proctor, by this light, If Jack once more his pipe does play, I shall be kill'd outright. But yet the learned proctor bold, gave Jack a firicl command, That he should not his art withold, but take his pipe in hand. With that he play'd a leffon loud, the court immediately. Rose up together in a croud. and dane'd and caper'd high. The learned priefts and proctors they, with all the other crew, In the town hall they dane'd away, and defks they overthrew.

Still as they caper'd to and fro, and from the ground did rife; One gave the fryar fuch a blow, which beat out both his eyes.

The writer from his desk did jump, into the thickest throng,
And fell upon the step-dame's rump and threw her all along.

Now by the fury of his fall, her breech did roar like thunder

As if she meant to flay them all, and rend the roof afunder.

Some dane'd with forms and some with the table they jump'd over; (stools, Jack laugh'd to see a throng of fools

with all their garments fore.

Some girls that were great with child, who had the laws transgress'd, Came thither to be reconciled.

and danc'd among the rest.

Their maiden-heads were crack'd before,

by youthful venial fins,
But now their grief is somewhat more,

for here they broke their shins, The proctor, priest, and all the men

The proctor, priest, and all the befought the little boy,

That he would leave off piping then left he should them destroy.

The little boy then reply'd,

to this I will agree;
My pipe shall soon be laid aside,

fo I may but go free.

The proctor and prodigious throng this voice they did forth fend, E'er he should suffer any wrong,

his cause they would defend. Jack put his pipe under his belt, so all the tribe stood still:

(18) Then gifts to him they freely dealt, with thanks for his good will, The fryar and the step mother, returned back with fliame : He values neither him nor her. but follows still his game. In mirth he past his time away, at length he chanc'd to find The same old man upon a day, 1 who was to him so kind To whom he told what sport had 'past, which vext the fryar fore; He gave Jack other charms at last, which plagued them ten times more. Young Jack he did not care a fart, tor any of the crew. Read but at large the second part, and twill your mirth renew.

END of the FIRST PART.



PART II.

O U Lads and laffes that can read, and you that fain would learn. Herein you may your fancies feed, and pleafant tales differn.

If once they're fairly underflood, deny it if you can;

The merry tales of Robin Hood, Scarlet and Little John,

Cannot compare with this fmall book

which I present to you. Then Reader slight it not, but lock

you read the same quite through, And then you'll be well satisfy'd

that I the truth have spoke, For all the book is beautify'd,

For all the book is beautity'd, with many a pleasant joke.

A merry boot there is between the Fryar and the Boy,

In which whole crowds were dancing teen in mad and mickle joy.

The little lad whole name was Jack,

he had a step mother,

To whom he prov'd lo arch a crack,

that scarce is such another; For he a pleasant pipe had got,

from a poor Hermit old, Likewise a bow with which he shot,

the like was never fold;
With which he made delightful fport

And in the very Proctor's court

he did the Lawrers tire. His step mother amongst the rout, whene'er she look'd on Jack,

(20) Was forc'd to dance and trump about, like any thunder crack; Which vex'd his mother to the heart, and the old Fryar too; But Jack had play'd a fecond part, fuch lads there are but few. Jack's father fent him forth again, once more to keep his sheep, When passing through a narrow lane, he did the Hermit meet, Who gave him the enchanted bow, the pipe and trumpet frains, To whom he m de a conjee low, and thank'i him for his pains, right happy may you be, Because I am well latisfy d, you were a f iend to me. The very gifts which I receiv'd from your good aged hand, Have oftentimes the Fryar griev'd, I have him at command. The aged Hermit then reply'd, give me fome drink I pray, Out of the bottle by your fide, I have not drank to day. Take it, faid ste, with all my heart, and further if you pleafe, You shall sit down and take a part of my poor bread and cheefe; I pray you do not spare to eat of tuch as you now fee, Yet if I had the best of meat, right welcome should you be. The Hermit eat and drank his fill, and when he thus had done, For Jack's free heart and his good will, he jaid, my loving fon,

I'll give thee one three withes more, whatever thou will crave; Faraid thou the best shall bave. I with a stock of points I bad, made of enchanted leather. Then when the people all dance mad, they may be ty'd tegether. By two and two in various shapes, according to my wind.

according to my mind, And to to skip about like apes

till I do them unbind.

The Hermit taid, the cunning points, I'll give thee now with eate.

And thou shalt tie and bind their joints, and loose them as you please.

Come tell me now my pretty boy, what thou wilt have beside;

What thou are willing to cijey, thall never be deny'd.

Father, taid he, a cuning spell let me not go without,

That I may fix a ringing bell, on every womans moust.

Who does the wanton way-tale play, with Fryars in the dark,

That Fryars too as well as they, may bear the same mark.

So toon as ever they thall hear, my pipe's delightful found,

that to the world it may appear

I grant thy wish with all my heart, in love and free good will

Though they endure pain and imart the bells shall gingle still

And cause them to become a scoff, till they thy love obtain.

Who power hath to take them off, or fix them on again. Come t. Il me what the last most be, my boy and pretty bird, For fure the number most be three, according to my word. The lad he made bina this reply. all cuckolds far and near : When they my merry pipe draw nigh, let them with horns appear; Whenever they are dancing led in strange and various forms, I wish to graft upon each head a lufty pair of horns; That I hereby may cuckolds know frem other honest men. The hermit cry'd, it shall be fo, thou haft three wishes then, Go on and prosper with them all, right happy shalt thou be, For there is none al ve that shall I thank you father for your love, I have my hearts defire ; And make no question but to prove Vexations to the Frier . My Step-mother I'll not excuse, the proctors nor their clerks, Nor any that shall me abute, I'll f. ol'ck with the fparks, Your kindness let me gratify, here take this good old groat; And till the very day I die, you shall be in my thought. He took the groat and then reply'd, You're welcome father, Jack he cry'd, As by a barn he chane d to pais, by accident he faw, A roung man and a bonny lafs, lie tporting upon the firaw. Wishing for points le 15 d them fatt, together as they lay:

Theu blowing of a merry blaft, his pipes aloud did play

They jumped our of the barn door i to an open green;

O luch a fight as this before
I think was never 1 en.

The man and maid did pull and haul, yet could not get alund r:

At length aloud for help they call, like roaring claps of thunder.

Then came on the good old dame,

from carding of her wool, The fight the faw, and bluth d for thame

yet the was pitiful.

Because they were in fad diffreds.

to them the fleight ray hied,

But Jack he tied her neverthelels unto the maid's backfile. And fix'd a hell unto her (north

And fix'd a bell unto her (nout, this was Jack's merriment

The old woman the bit her thumbs

and bitterly did frown:
And with her card fire claw'd their bums,
until the blood ran down.

The man he aloud did roar,

Their buttocks being to much tore, the like you never knew.

They caper d-high and also low,

they could not be at reft. But full as Jack his pipes did blow,

But still as Jack his pipes old blo they thought themselves posses

(24) The Icratches like as dreadful stripes they cry'd we cannot fland; Sure these are some enchanted pipes, Ay, fo he is, I do suppose, the old wife then reply'd For there's a bell upon my nole, I know not how 'tis tied. The thoughts of it do me provoke, for why, alas I fear My spectacles they will be broke With to much bubbing here. They danc'd along I know not how at length young Jack he brought 'em All through a dirty slimey slow, faid she, I now have taught them A trick for playing of the game, closs by the highwayside; They shall be punish d for the same I will be fatisfy'd. Still he did pipe and they did fkip, it filled him with laughter, He ovea a large river leapt' Through all the flowing water where they wall d themselves all o'er; Then hovest Jock he did declare, he'd punish them no more, He parted them and faid farewell, now you have wash d your cloaths; But yet he left the little betl, at the old woman's noic. They went trudging dropping dry" quite from top to toe; The old wife did often cry, adds foot, I do not know What I shall do with this small bell, i it bobs from fide to fide?