The Three Butchers.















A story I will tell to you, it is of butchers three: Gibson, Wilson and Johnson, mark well what I do say; Now as they had five hundred pounds, all on a market day, Now as they had five hundred pounds to pay upon their way.

With my hey, ding, ding, with my ho, ding, ding, With my high, ding, ding, kigh dey!

+ May God keep all good people from such bad company!

Now as they rode along the road as fast as they could hie; Spur on your horse, says Johnson, for I hear a woman cry, And, as they rode into the wood, the scene they spied around, And there they found a woman lay a-swooning on the ground.

With etc:

"O woman, woman," Johnson cries, "oh pray, come tell to me,
O woman, woman," Johnson cries, "have you got any company?"
"Oh, no! no! no! "the woman cries, "Alas! how can that be?
When here have been by ten swaggering blades who've robbed and beaten me!"
With etc:

Now Johnson, being a valiant man, he bore a valiant mind,
He wropped her up in his great coat, and placed her up behind.
And as they rode along the road, as fast as they could ride,
She put her fingers to her ear and gave a screekful cry.

With etc:

With that, came out ten swaggering blades, with their rapiers (ready drawn,) (in their hand.) They rode up to bold Johnson, and boldly bid him stand. "Oh, I cannot fight," says Gibson, "I am sure that I shall die!"
"No more won't I," cries Wilson, "for I will sooner fly!"

With etc:

"Come on, come on!"cries bold Johnson," I'll fight you all so free!

And, woman, stand you here behind; we'll gain the victory!"

The very first pistol Johnson fires was loaded with powder and ball,
And, out of these ten swaggering blades five of them did fall.

With etc.

"Come on! come on!"cries bold Johnson, there are but five for me,
And, woman, stand you there behind; we'll gain the victory!"
The very next pistol Johnson fired was loaded with powder and ball,
And out of these five swaggering blades there's three of them did fall.

With etc:

"Come on! come on!"cries bold Johnson, there are but two to me,
And, woman, stand you there behind; we'll gain the victory!"
As Johnson fought these rogues in front, the woman he did not mind,
She took his knife all from his side and ripped him down behind.

With etc:

and stabbed him from behind.

"Now I must fall," says Johnson," I must fall to the ground!
For relieving this wicked woman she gave me my death wound!
Oh! woman, woman, woman, what have you been and done?
You have killed the finest butcher that ever the sun shone on!"
With etc:

Now, just as she had done the deed some men came riding by,
And, seeing what this woman had done, they raised a dreadful cry.
Then she was condemned to die in links, and iron chains so strong,
For killing of bold Johnson, that great and valiant man.

With etc:

[Sung by M1 H. Burstow, 1893.]

+or "May Heaven keep good people"