

2/300

THE
HISTORY
OF
JOHN CHEAP,
THE CHAPMAN.

CONTAINING

Above a Hundred Merry Exploits done by
him and his Fellow Traveller, DROUTHY
Tom, a sticked Shaver.

IN THREE PARTS.



GLASGOW:

Published by J. LUMSDEN & SON,

1820.

THE
HISTORY
OF
JOHN CHEAP
THE
CHAPMAN.

PREFACE.

JOHN CHEAP the Chapman, was a very comical short thick fellow, with a broad face and a long nose; both lame and lazy, and something leacherous among the lasses: He chused rather to sit idle than work at any time, as he was a hater of hard labour. No man needed to offer him cheese and bread, after he curst he would not have it: for he would blush at bread and milk, when hungry, as a beggar doth at a bawbee. He got the name of John Cheap the Chapman, by his selling twenty needles for a penny, and twa leather laces for a farthing.

He swore no oaths but one, which was, Let me never sin!

He gave bad counsel to none but children, to burn the bone-combs, that their mother might buy another when he came again.

He never fought with any but dogs, and the good-wives' daughters in their dassing, and that's not dangerous.

PART I.

The following Relation is taken from his own mouth verbatim.

I JOHN CHEAP, by chance, at some certain time, doubtless against my will, was born at the Hottom, near Habertehoy mill: My father was a cots Highlandman, and my mother a Yorkshire wench, but honest, which causes me to be of a mongrel kind: I made myself a chapman when very young, in great hopes of being rich when I became old; but fortune was fickle, and so was I; for I had not been a chapman above two days, until I began to consider the danger of deep ditches, midden-dubs, biting dogs, and bogles in barns, bangster wives and wet sacks: And what comfort is it, says I, to ly in a cow's ouxter, the length of a cold winter night; to sit behind backs, till the kail be a' cuttied up, and then to lick colley's leavings.

My first journey was through old Kilpatrick. All the day long I got no meat ner money, until the evening, began to ask for lodging, then every wife to get me away, would either give me a cog-full of kail, or a piece of cake. Well, says I to myself, if this be the way, I shall begin in the morning to ask for lodging, or any time when I am hungry. Thus I continued going from house to house, until my belly was like to burst, and my pockets could hold no more; at last I came to a farmer's house, but thinking it not dark enough to prevail for lodging, I sat down upon a stone at the end of the house, till day light would go away out of the west; and as I was getting up to go into the house, out comes the goodwife, as I supposed, her to be, and sat down at the end of the stone I being at the other, there she began to make off

her water with full force, which I bore with very modestly, till near an end; then she made the wind follow with such force, as made (as I thought) the very stone I leaned upon to move, which made me burst out into laughter; then up gets the wife, and runs for it; I followed hard after into the house, and as I entered the house I heard the goodman, saying, Ay, ay, goodwife, what's the haste, you run so?

No more passed, until I addressed myself to the goodman for quarters; which he answered, "Indeed, lad, we hae nae beds but three, my wife and I, ourselfs twa, and the twa bits o' little anes, Willie and Jenny lie in ane, the twa lads, our twa servant men, Willie Black and Tom lie in anither, and auld Maggs, my mither, and the lass, Jean Tirram, lie thegither, and that fills them a'." O but, says I, goodman, there is some of them suller than others, you may let me lie with your mother and the lass; I shall lie heads and thraws wi' them, and keep on my breeks. A good keep me, quo' the lass, frae a' temptations to sin, although thou be but a callan, heth I'll rather lie wi' Sannock Garner: Hute awa', quo' the auld wife, the poor lad may lie on a battle of frae, beyond the fire: No, no, cries the goodwife, he's no be here the night, or I'se no be here: Dear goodwife, said I, what ails you at me? If you will not let me stay you'll not hinder me to go where I please: Ay, ay, said she, gae where you like; then I gat in beyond the fire, beside the goodman: Now, said I, goodwife, I like to be here: a d—l be here, an ye be here the night, said she; ho, ho, said I, but I'm here first, and first com'd, first serv'd, goodwife; but an' the ill thief be a friend of yours, you'll have room for him too. Ye thief-like widdyfu' said she, are ye evening me to be sib to the foul thief

'tis well kend I am come of good honest fouks It may be so, goodwife, said I, but you look rather the other way, when you would lodge the d—l in your house, and ca' out a poor chapman to die, such a stormy night as this, What do ye say! says she, there was na a bonnier night since winter came in nor this. O goodwife, what are you saying! Do ye not mind, when you and I was at the east end of the house, such a noise of wind and water was then; a wae worth the filthy body, said she, is not that in every part? What, said the goodman, a wat well there was nae rain when I came in: The wife then shoots me out, and bolted the door behind me: Well, said I, but I shall be through between thy mouth and thy nose or the morrow. It being now so dark, and I a stranger, could see no place to go to, went into the corn-yard, but finding no loose straw, I fell a drawing one of their stacks, sheaf by sheaf, until I pulled out a threave or two, and got into the hole myself, where I lay as warm as a pie; but the goodman in the morning, perceiving the heap of corn sheaves, came running to carry it away, and stop up the hole in the stack wherein I lay, with some of the sheaves, so with the sleighing of the straw, and him talking to others, cursing the thieves who had done it; swearing they had stole six threaves of it; I then skipping out of the hole, ho, ho, said I, goodman, you're not to bury me alive in your stack: he then began to chide me, vowing he would keep my pack for the damage I had done: whereupon I took his servants witness he had robbed me; when hearing me urge him so, he gave me my pack again, and off I came to the next house, where I told the whole of the story.

My next exploit was near Carluke, between Hamilton and Lanark: Where, on a cold stormy night, I came to a little town with four or five hou

fes in it: I went twice through it, but none of them would give me the credit to stand all night among their horses, or yet to lie in their cow's ouxter: At last I prevailed with a wife, if her husband was willing, to let me stay, she would, and sent me to the barn to ask him, and I meeting him at the barn-door carrying in strae for his horses; I told him his wife had granted to let me stay, if he was not against it, to which he answered, "if I should lie in his midden dib, I should get no quarters from him that night; a wheen lazy idle villains rins a to be chapmen, comes through the country fashing fouks, aye seeking quarters; the next day ye'll be gaun wi' a powdered perriwig, and a watch at your arse, and winna let fowk stand before your chap-doors, ye'll be sae saucy." I hearing thus my sentence from the goodman, expected no relief but to lie without, yet I perceived when he came out of the barn, he only drew to the door behind him. So when he was gone, I slips into the barn and by the help of one of the kipples, climbs up the mou, and there dives down among the sheaves, and chapped myself all over, so that I lay as warm as the goodman himself. But in the morning, long before day, two fellows came into the barn and fell a-threshing, that by their disturbance I could sleep no more: at last I got up with all my hair hanging over my face, and when he that stood on the opposite side perceived me, I made my eyes to roll, and wrayed my face in a frightful manner, so that the poor fellow supposed he had seen the deil, or something as ill, gave a roar as if he had been sticked, and out at the door he runs; the other following after him, crying, Wa' Johnny man, what did you see? O Sandy, Sandy, the deil's on the top o' the mou, sheavling his mouth at me; I'll not be so well this month man, my heart's out o' its hole, vow but you be a

feardu' like face indeed, it would fright any living creature out o' their senses.

I hearing the fear they were in, cried to them not to be frighted, for I was not the d—l, but a poor chapman who could not get quarters last night; a foul sa' thy carcass, Sir, for our Jock is through the midden-dil, dirt and a' the gither; he who went last came again, but the other ran into the house, and told what he had seen; the goodman and his wife came running, he with a grape in his hand, and her with the Bible, the one crying Sandy, Sandy, is't true the d—l was in the barn; Na, na, said he, its but a chapman, but poor Jock has gotten a fright wi' him. They laughed heartily at the sport, took me in to breakfast, and by this time poor Johnny was gone to bed very sick.

After this I travelled up by the water of Clyde, near the foot of Linock-hill, where I met with a sweet companion, who was an older traveller than I, and who gave me more information how to blow the goodwife and fleek the goodman: With him I kept company for two months, and as we travelled down Tweed towards the border, we being both hungry, and could get nothing to buy for the belly, we came unto a wife who had been kirning, but she would give us nothing, nor sell so much as one halfpenny's worth of her four-milk; Na, na, said she, I'll neither sell butter, bread, nor milk, it's a' little enough to fair my ain family: ye that's chapmen may drink water, ye dinna work fair. Ay, but goodwife, said I, I hae been at Temple-bar, where I was sworn ne'er to drink water, if I could get better: What do ye say, said she, about Temple-bar? A town just about twa three miles and a bittock frae this: A thief one was to swear you there, an it wasna auld Willie Miller the cobbler, the ill thief a neither minister nor magistrate ever was in't a'.

O but, says the other lad, the Temple-bar he means by, is at London. Yea, yea, iad, an ye be com'd frae London ye're little worth. London, said he, is but at home to the place he comes from: A dear man, quoth she, and whar in a' the world comes he frae? All the way frae Italy, where the Pope o' Rome dwells, says he: A sweet be we' us, quoth she, for the fouks there awa' is a witches and warlocks diels, brownies, and fairies. Well a wat that is true, said I, and that thou shalt know, thou hard hearted wretch, who would have people to starve or provoke them to steal. With that I rose and lifts twa or three long straws, and casting knots on them, into the byre I went, and throws a knotted straw on every cow's stake, saying, thy days shall not be long: The wife followed, wringing her hands, earnestly praying for herself and all that was hers. I then came out at the door, and litted a stone, running three times round about, and threw it over the house, muttering some words, which I knew not myself, and concluding with these words, "Thou Monsieur Diable, brother to Beelzebub god of Ekron, take this wife's kirn, butter, and milk, sap and substance, without and within, so that she may die in misery, as she would have others to live.

The wife hearing the aforesaid sentence, clapt her hands, and called out another old woman as foolish as herself, who came crying after us to come back, back we went, where she made us eat heartily of butter and cheese; then she earnestly pleaded with me to go and lift up my cantrips, which I did, upon her promising never to deny a hungry traveller meat nor drink, whether they had money to pay for't or not; and never to serve the poor with the old proverb, 'Go home to your own parish,' but give them less or more, as ye' see them in need. This she faithfully promised to do while she lived, and

with milk, we drank towards her cow's good health and her own, nor forgetting her husband's and the bull's, as the one was the goodman of the house, and the other of the byre; and away we came in all haste, lest some of a more understanding nature should come and hear of it, and follow after us.

In a few days thereafter we came to an ale-house in a muir, far distant from any other, it being a fore day of wind and rain, we could not travel, was obliged to stay there, and the house being throng, we could get no bed but the servant lass's, which we was to have for a penny's worth of pins and needles, and she was to lie with her master and mistress: But as we were going to bed, in comes three Highland drovers on their way home from England; the landlord told them that the beds were all taken up but one; that two chapmen was to lie in; one of them swore his broad sword should sail him, if a chapman lay there that night. They took our bed, and made us sit by the fire all night: I put on a great many peats, and when the drovers were fast asleep, I put on a big brass pan full of water, and boiled their brogs therein, for the space of half an hour, then lays them as they were, every pair by themselves; so when they rose, every one began to chide another, saying, "Hup pup, ye sheing a brog: for not one of them would serve a child of ten years old, being so boiled in: The landlord persuaded them that their feet was swelled with the hard travelling, being so wet the last night, and they would go on well enough if they had travelled a mile or two. Now the Highlandmen laugh at me the night before, when they lay down in the bed I was to have, but I laugh as much to see them all three trot away in the morning with their boiled brogs in their hands.

PART II.

WE again came to a place near Suttly-hill, where the ale was good, and very civil usage, and our drought being very great, the more we drank, the better we lov'd it: And here we fell in company with a quack-doctor, who bragged us with bottle about, for two days and two nights, only when one fell drunk, we pushed and pricked him up with a big pin, to keep him from sleeping: He bought of our hair, and we of his pills and drugs, he having as much knowledge of the one, as we had of the other: Only I was sure I had as much as would set a whole parish to the midden or mug, all at once: But the profit, though all to come, went to the landlady to make up the loss of having the lime piss'd off her door-checks, and what we did not piss, we scyth'd through our teeth, and gave the dogs the girt bits.

But at last our money ran short, and the landlady had no chalk nor faith to credit us, seeing by our coats, courage, and conduct, that we would little mind performance against the day of payment; so then we began to turn sober and wise behind the hand, and every one of us to seek supply from another, and when we collected all the money we had amongst us, on the table, it was but four-pence half-penny, which we lovingly divided among us, but only three bawbees a piece, and as Drouthy Tom's stock and mine was conjunct, we gave the quack again his sh--g stuff and stinking mugs, and he gave us our goods and pickles of hair, which we equally divided betwixt us, the whole of it only came to eighteen shillings and six-pence prime cost, and so we parted: I went for East Lothian, and Tom for the West; but my sorting of goods being very un-uitable for that country, I got but little or no ma-

ney, which caused me to apply to the goodman for to get lodging, and it being upon a Saturday's night, was hard to be found, till very late in the night, I prevailed to get staying in a great farmer's house, about two miles from Haddington; they were all at supper when I came in; I was ordered to sit down behind their backs, the goodwife then took a dish, went round the servants, and collected a soup out of every cog, which was sufficient to have served three men; the goodwife ordered me to be laid in the barn all night for my bed, but the bully-faced goodman swore he had too much stuff in it, to venture me there; the goodwife said, I should not lie within the house, for I would be ovr near the lasses' bed; then the lads swore I should not go with them, for I was a forjesket-like fellow, and (wha kens whether I was honest or not) he may fill his wallet wi' our cloaths, and gang his wa or day-light. At last I was conducted out to the swine's sty, to sleep with an old sow and seven pigs, and there I lay for two nights. Here, now I began to reflect on the four fruits of drinking, and own all the misery just that was come upon me. In the night the young pigs came pruzzling about me very kindly, thinking I was some friend of their mother's come to visit them; they gave me but little rest, always coming kissing me with their cold noses, which caused me to beat them off with my staff, which made them to make a terrible noise, so that their old mother come up to argue the matter, running upon me with open mouth, but I gave her such a rout over her long snout, as caused her to roar out murder in her own language, that alarmed the servants where they lay, who came to see what was the matter, I told them, their old sow was going to swallow me up alive, bid them to go and bring her meat, which they did, and the brute became peaceable.

On the Sabbath morning I came into the house, the goodman asked me if I could shave any, yes said I, but never did upon the Sabbath-day; I fancy, said he, you are some Westland Whig? Sir, said I, you may suppose me to be what you think proper to-day, but yesternight you used me like a Tory, when you sent me into a sty to lie in the sow's oxter, who is a fitter companion for a devil than any human creature; the abominablest brute upon the earth, said I, who was forbidden to be eaten under the law, and cursed under the gospel: Be they cursed or be they blessed, said he, I wish I had a-new of them; but an ye will not take off my beard, ye's get nae meat here the day; then, said I, if ye will not give me meat and drink for money, until the Sabbath be past, I'll take on my wallet, and go along with you to the kirk, and tell your minister, how you used me as a hog; no, said the goodwife, you shall not want your crowdie, man. But my heart being full of sorrow and revenge, a few of them sufficed me, whereon I past over that long day, and at night went to sleep with my old companions, which was not found, being afraid of mistress sow's coming to revenge the quarrel we had the night before.

On the morning I went into the house, the goodman ordered me the pottage pot to lick, for, says he, it is an old property to chapman. Well, I had no sooner begun to it, than out came a great big mastiff dog from below the bed, and gripes me by the breast, then turns me over upon my back, and takes the pot himself: Ay, ay, said the goodman, I think your brother pot-licker and you cannot agree about your breakfast? A well, said I, goodman, you said the pot-licking was a chapman's property, but your dog proves the contrary: So away I comes, and meeting the goodwife at the door, bids her farewell for ever; but what, said I, is your husband's name?

to which she answered, John Swine; I was thinking so, said I, he has such duty fashions; but whether was yon his mother or his sister I lay with these two nights.

All that day I travelled the country west from Haddington, but could get no meat; when I asked if they had any to sell, they told me, they never did sell any bread, and I found by sad experience, they had none to give for nothing. I came into a little country village, and went through it all, house after house, and could get neither bread nor ale to buy: At last I came into a poor weaver's house, and asked him if he would lend me a hammer? Yes, said he, what are you going to do with it? Indeed, said I, I am going to knock out all my teeth with it, for I can get no bread to buy in all this country, for all the stores and stacks, you have in it: What, said he, was you in the minister's? I know not, said I, does he keep an ale-house? O na, said he, he preaches every Sunday; and what does he preach, said I? is it to harden your hearts? hand well together? have no charity? hate strangers? hunger the poor? eat and drink all yourselves? better burst your bellies, than give it to beggars, or let good meat spoil: If your minister be as naughty as his people, I'm positive he'll drive a louse to London for the hide and tallow. Here I bought the weaver's dinner for twopence, and then set out again, keeping my course westward. It being now night, I came to a farmer's house, south from Dalkeith; the goodman being very civil and desirous of news, I related the whole passages of the two days and nights by-past, whereat he was greatly diverted, and said, I was the first he heard of, that ever that man give quarters to before, though he was an elder of the parish. So the goodman and I fell so thick, that he ordered me to be laid in a shakedown-bed beyond the fire, where I

lay more snug than among the swine. Now there was three women lying in a bed in the same apartment, and they not minding that I was there, first one of them rose and let her water go in below the chimney grate, where I had a perfect view of her bonny-thing, as the coal fire burnt so clearly all the night; then another rose and did the same; last of all got up the old matron, as she appeared to be, like a second-handed goodwife, or a whirled-o'er maiden, six times overturned, and as she let her dam go, she also, with full force, when done, let a fart like the blast of a trumpet, which made the dust on the hearth-stone to fly up like dust about her buttocks, whereat I was forced to laugh out, which made her to run for it, but to smother the laughter, I stapt the blankets in my mouth; she went to bed and wakened the other two, saying, O dole! what will I tell you! yon chapman body has seen a' our a-fes the night; shame fa' him, said they, for we had nae mind he was there: I wat well, says one of them, I'se no rise till he be awa', but said the old woman, gin he has seen mine, I cannot help it, it's just like other fouks, and fin't a hair I care. On the morning, the old matron got up first, and ordered up the house, then told me to rise now, for chapman and every body was up; then she asked me if I had an use of laughing in my sleep? Yes, said I, when I see any daft like thing, I can look and laugh at it, as well sleeping as waking: A good preserve us, said she, ye're an unco body, but ye need nae wait on our porrage time, I'se gie you cheefe and bread in your pouch, which I willingly accepted, and away I came.

Then I kept my course west by the foot of Pentland hills, where I got plenty of hair, good and cheap, besides a great quantity of old brass, which was an excellent article to make my little pack seem

big and weighty. Then I came into a little country village, and going in by the side of a house, there was a great big cat sitting in a weaver's window, basking herself in the sun, and washing her face with her feet: I takes her a civil knap on the nose, which makes her turn back in through the window, and the weaver having a plate full of hot pottage in the inner side to cool, poor badrons ran through the middle of them, burnt her feet, and threw them to the ground, ran through the house, crying fire and murder in her own language, which caused the warty wicked webster to come running to the door, where he attacked me in a furious rage, and I to avoid the first thock, fled to the top of the midden, where, endeavouring to give me a kick, I caughted him by the foot, and tumbled him back over into the dirty midden-dib, where both his head and shoulders went under dirt and water; but before I could recover my elwand or arms, the wicked wife and her sons was upon me in all quarters, the wife digging in my hair, while the twa sons boxed me out and before, and being thus overpowered by numbers, I was fairly beat by this wicked webster, troops being so numerous.

The same day, as I was going up to a country-se, I met on the way a poor beggar with a who was both of them bitten in different places by a big mastiff dog; they persuaded me to turn back, but I said that I should first see him: so up I went to the side of a hedge, and cuts a long branch full of prickles, which I carried in my left hand, my sturdy staff in the right; and as I came to the house, Mr. Youffer came roaring upon me like a lion, he being a tyke of such a monstrous size, he frightened me so that I ran back; but he pursued so hard, I was forced to face about, and hold out the briar to him, which he gripped in his

mouth, and then stripped it through his teeth, and gave him a hearty blow upon his ear with my ring, which made him go tumbling towards his master's door, and when he got up, he could not fight any, his mouth being so full of prickles by the biting of the briar, which caused him go about yuling, and rubbing his mouth with his foot; the people of the house came running out to see what was the matter, I then shewed them the briar, and telling them the dog came ranning to bite me, but my briar had bitten him; they then called him in, and fell to picking the pricks out of his tongue.

On the Saturday night thereafter, I was like to be badly off for quarters, I travelled until many people were gone to bed; but at last I came to a farmer's house, asked what they would buy, naming twenty fine things that I never had, and then asked for quarters, which they very freely granted, thinking I was some gentle chapman with a rich pack, but I being weary with travel, could take but little or no supper; being permitted to lie in the spence beside the goodman's bed, the goodwife being very hard of hearing, she thought that every body was so, for when she went to bed, she cried out, "A how hea-
 "rie is na yon a brave moderate chapman we hae
 "here the night, he took just seven soups o' our
 "sowens, and that filled him fu'; a dear Andrew
 "man, turn ye about, and tak my cauld a—e in
 "your warm lunchoch." On the morrow I went to the kirk with the goodman, and I missing him about the door, went into the middle of the kirk but could see no empty seats but one big furm, where none sat but one woman by herself, and so I set myself down beside her, not knowing where I was until sermon was over, when the minister began to rebuke her for using her Merry-bit, against law or licence; and then she began to whinge and yul

ke a dog, which made me to run out cursing, before the minister had given the blessing: *I* then came home to my lodging-house, and then went to dinner with the goodman, and it being the custom in that place to eat pease bread to their broth, and corn cakes to their flesh, so the goodwife laid down a rye scone and a pease scone to the goodman, and the same to me, the pease one for the broth, and the rye one for the beef; and as the goodman and *I* sat together, when he broke off a piece of the pease bread to his broth, *I* was sure to break as much of the rye cake below, and when we came to eat the flesh he did the same, so he ate the coarse and *I* the fine.

PART III.

Travelled then west by Falkirk, by the foot of the great hills; and one night after *I* had got lodging in a farmer's house, there happened a contention between the goodman and his mother, he being a young man unmarried, as *I* understood, and formerly their sowens had been too thin; so the goodman being a sworn birly-man of that barony, went to survey the sowens before they went on the sowing, and actually swore they were o'er thin, and she swore by her conscience they would be thick enough in all hands, and ill een baed awa' frae them: A witch be here mither, said he, do ye think that *I* will be witch? Witch here or witch there, said the wife, caring by all her saul, and that was nae banning the sowens, they'll be good substantial meat, a' what say you Chapman? indeed goodwife said *I*, sowens is but poor meat at the best, but if ye make them thick enough, and put a good lump of butter in them,

they'll do very well for a supper; I true sae, lad, said she, ye hae sennise, so the old woman put on the pot with the sowens, and went to milk her cows, leaving me to steer; the goodman her son, as soon as she went out, took a great cog full of water and put it into the pot amongst the sowens, and then went out of the house, and left me alone: I considering what sort of a pish-the-bed supper I was to get if I staid there, thought fit to set out, but take up a pitcher with water, and fill's up the pot until it was running over, and then takes up my pack and comes about a mile farther that night, leaving the honest woman and her son, to sup their watery witcht sowens, at their leisure.

I then turned toward the east, through a place called Slamannan, and was lodged one night near a place called Tod's Bughts, where there was a boun horned goodwife, but a very civil goodman; when I went in, she took up a dish from the dog, wherein was a few he had left, and with a collection more from other cogs, she offered them to me, which I refused: 'm, said she, ye're a lordly sort of a chapman indeed; so I began to divert the goodman, by telling him a deal of fine stories to make him laugh, but could not get near the fire; at last I said, O goodwife, I'll tell you news, ay chapman, what that, said she? indeed my fee's very cauld, said I, whereat they all laught but the goodwife, she gloom'd until the rest was done, and then took a laugh at herself: So the goodman ordered all the Johnnie Jamies, and Jennies with their wheels to sit about then I was set beyond the fire, and preferred to steer their sowens, but when they were ready and put in dishes, the goodwife ordered one of the lads to take a pair of blankets and two sacks, and she led me where I was to lie in the barn: Ho, ho, think I, there's no supper for me, but I'll remember th

to pay her stock and annual. So I went to the barn and lay till next morning, about chapman's rising-time, when pottage was ready, and then gives the wife a fine cotton lace and a few pins, which pleased her so well, that she went through the cogs and collected about a mutchkin of pottage for me, for which I thanked her: "A wat well lad, said she, an ye be coming by ony time, ye's be welcome to a night o' our barn, frae ye hae na steal'd naething;" thanks to you goodwife, said I, that's very fair; "Indeed lad, 'tis no every ane we'll trust wi' our new barn, farfore sud we?" O goodwife, it wad be a great thief that wad rin awa wi' a barn on his back, I wonder ye let it stand out all night; "Hut awa ye daft body, how can we get it in, ke awa chapman, ye're joking me now." I then took a turn round the country for two weeks and then came back to be avenged on the naughty wife and her fowens: it being very dark or I came in, the goodwife did not know me, but made her speech as follows: "Indeed, says she, ye's no be here, for there is so mony thieves and robbers gaun athort the kintry and our goodman's no at hame; art thou honest enough?" I can want nothing of my honesty, goodwife; but did you ever see any people gaun through the country telling they were thieves? "Na, a wat well no, said she:" Then, said I, I'm sure I did not take away your barn on my back the last time I was here: "Yee lad, said she, are ye the chapman that cracket fae well to our good man? come in by, ye's get a night o' the barn yet;" thanks to you goodwife an we sud get nae mair. I then being preferred to my old seat, and got the fowens to steer, until they were near ready, when the goodwife ordered the lad to take the old blankets and shew me to my bed, in the barn; I then gave the fowens the last turn, and having about

the bigness of a nut of C—l —p, drops it into the pot, then went off to bed in the barn as fast as I could, and made fast both the doors within, lest the bewitched sowens out-of the pot should attack me in my sleep; Next morning when I came in, the goodwife began to pray for herself and all that she had, saying, "It's Wednesday through a' the warld, " and good be between you and me chapman, for " ye're either a witch or a warlock, or something " that's no canny, for ye witcht our sowens last night, " for they gaed mad, raged out o' the pot, belling " and bizzing like barm, I thought they would run out " to the barn to you, see how they fill'd up my milk- " tub, and a' the dishes in the house is fu' o' them " Dear goodwife, said I, they were very good when I left them, though I did not prie them, and I wished them as much good of them as I got, but certainly they're not witcht, but a blessing in them, when they are so multiplied. " Gae awa, cried she, in a " passion, ye're no canny, ye's ne'er be here again," I need not value that, said I, for I have nothing to thank you for but my dinner, supper, and breakfast, and for a night of your barn, I'll pay it when I come back: " Ay, ay, said she, ye needna thank " me, for what ye did not get;" that's not my fault goodless-goodwife, said I, prosperity to you and your witcht sowens

The next little town I came to, and the first house which I entered, the wife cried out, "plague on your snout, stir, ye filthy black-guard chapman like b—h it ye are, the last time ye came here, ye gard our Sandy burn the good bane comb it I gade a saxpence for in Falkirk, ay did ye, ay sae did ye e'en, and said ye wou'd gie him a nuckle clear button to do it: Me, said I, I never had ado with you a' the days of my life, and do not say that Sandy is mine: " A wae wirth the body, am I saying ye had

ado wi' me, I wadna hae ado wi' the like o' you, nor I am sure wi' them I never saw." But what about the button and the bane-kame, goodwife? Sannock, is na this the man? Ay is't, cried the boy, gie me my button, for I burnt the kame, and she paid me for't. Gae awa, sir, said I, your mother and you is but mocking me; it was either you or ane like you, or some other body. O goodwife, I mind who it is now, it's ane just like me, when ye see the tane ye see the tither, they ca' him Jock Jimpether: A wae worth him, quo' the wife, if I winna thrapple him for my good bane kame. Now, said I, goodwife, be good, bridle your passion, and buy a bane kame and colour'd napkin, I'll gie ye a whaken pennyworth, will gar ye sing in your bed, if I should sell you the tae-half, and gift you the tither, and gar you pay for every inch o't sweetly or a' be done: Hech man, said she, ye're a hearty fellow, and I hae need o' a' these things, for our Sannock's head is a hotchen, and our Jock's is little better, for an' let them alane but ae eight days, they'll grow as grit as grosets. And here I sold a bane kame and a napkin, for she believed such a doufe lad as I had no hand in making her boy burn the bane comb.

The next house I came into there was a very little tay'or, sitting on a table like a t—d on a truncher, with his legs plet over other, made me imagine he was a sucking three-footed taylor; first I sold him a thumble, and then he wanted needles, which I showed him one paper after another, he looking their eyes and trying their nebs in his sleeve, dropt the ones he thought proper on the ground between his feet, where he sat in a dark corner near the fire, thinking I would not perceive him: O, said he, them needles of yours is not good, man, I'll not buy any of them. I do not think you need, said I, taking them out of his hand, and lights a candle was stand-

ng near by, come, said I, sit about you thieving dog till I gather up my needles, gathers up ten of them; come, said he, I'll buy twal-penny's worth of them, frae I troubled you so muckle; no, said I, you lousie dog, I'll sell you none, if there's any on the ground, seek them up and siap them in a beast's a—se; but if ye were a man, I would burn you in the fire, though it be in your own house, but as you are a poor taylor, and neither man nor boy, I'll do nothing but expose you for what you are. O dear honest chapman, cried his wife, ye manna do that, and I'll gie you cheese and bread. No, no, you thieves, I'm for nohing but vengeance; no bribes, for such: So as I was lifting up my pack, there was a pretty black cat which I spread my napkin over, took the four corners in my hand, carrying her as a bundle; until I came about the middle of the town, then provoking the dogs to an engagement with me, so that there came upon me four or five collies, then I threw the poor taylor's cat in the midtt of them there a terrible battle ensued for some time, and badrons had certainly died on the field, had I not inrerposed, and got her off mortally wounded; the people who saw the battle, alarmed the taylor, and he called out like a great champion with his elwand in his hand, go back, said I, you lousie dog, or I'll tell about the needles, at which word he turned about. I went into an ale-house to get some breakfast, there they asked me where I was all night, as it was usual in that country for chapmen to get meat where they lodged, I told where I was, but would take none of their meat, because, said I, they seem to me not to be canny, for this morning they were making ropes of coid sowens to crown up their stacks wi': Gae awa, cried the wife, I canna believe it; if you will not believe it, die in your ignorance, for me: The wife sery away her son to see if it was so

but or he came back I set out, and travelled down the side of a water called Evan: and as I was coming past a mill dam, there was a big clownish fellow lifting a pitcher of water out of the dam, so as he dipt it full and set it down on the ground, flaring at me, he tumbled in himself out of sight, o'er head and ears, and as soon as he got out, I said, Yo ho friend, Did you get the fish? What an a fish ye b—h; O said I, I thought ye had seen a fish, when you jumped in to make it jump out: What a d—l sir, are you mocking me? runs round his pitcher, and gives me a kick on the a—e, so that I fell designedly on his pitcher, and it tumbled down the bank and went in pieces; has master and another man looking and laughing at us, the poor fellow complained of me to him, but got no satisfaction.

The same evening as I was going towards the town of Linlithgow, meets an old crabbet fellow riding upon an old glaid mare, which he always was a thrashing upon with his sick: Goode'en to you goodman, said I, are you going to the bull wi' your mare? What do you say, sir, they gang to the bull wi' a cow, ye brute. O yes, goodman, ye are right, said I, but how do they call that he-beast that rides on the mare's back, they ca't a cuffer sir, a well then goode'en to you master cuffer. He rides a little bit, then turns back in a rage, saying, I say, sir, your last words are war nor your first, he comes then at the flight to ride me down, but I struck his beast on the face, and in the short turn about it fell, yet or I could get my pack to the ground, he cutted me on the head at the first stroke, and then getting clear of the pack, played it away for some time, till by blows on the face, I made him blood at both mouth and nose; then he cried out, chapman, we are baith daft, for we'll kill ourfells and make naething o't, we had better gree; with all my heart, said I, and

what will ye buy; nothing but a pair of beard-sheers; said he, and give me them cheap. So, I sold him a pair of P sheers for three half-pence, and gave him a needle, then parted good friends after the battle was over.

So I went to Linlithgow that night, where I met with Drouthy Tom, my sweet and dear companion, and here we had a most terrible encounter with the tippeny for two nights and a day; and then we set out for Fyfe on the hair order, by way of Toryburn and Culrofs, and coming up to a parcel of women washing by a water side, I buys one of their hairs. The time I was cutting it off, Tom fell a courting and kissing a girl among them, who was of the haveral fort. What happened I know not, but she cried out, ye misleard filthy fallow, ye put your hand a tween my feet, mair need anither thing sud be there. A ill chance on your picture, cried an old wite, for mony a ane has ta'en me be there in daffing, and I ne'er said a word about it, a whene daft jades, canna ye hae your tongues, when it's to your shame ye speak. Gae awa', cried the lass, he, filthy body at he is, the last chapman that kist me had a horse-pack, but he'll hae naething in his but a wisp of strae, some old breeks, hair-skins, maukin-skins, ony thing that fills the bag, and bears bouk, and yet he would kifs and handle me, hech, I was made for a better fallow; ane of them came by ae day, and sell'd our Meg twa ell and a quarter o' linen to be her bridal-sark, for he had nae mair, and when she made it, and pat it on, it widna hide her hech, hech, hech, he.

The End of the Thrice Parts.

J. Neilson, printer.