

THE
HISTORY
OF
JOHN CHEAP
THE
CHAPMAN

CONTAINING

Above an Hundred merry EXPLOITS done by him
and his Fellow Traveller. DROUTHY TOM,
a sticked shaver.

IN THREE PARTS.



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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 somewhat lecherous among the lasses: He chose 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, he would blush at bread and milk, when hung as a beggar doth at a baubee. He got the name of John Cheap the chapman, by his selling twer needles for a penny, and twa leather laces for a farthing.

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

He used no imprecations, but let me neither cheat nor be cheated, but rather cheat, &c,

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

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

P A R T. 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 Habartehoy mill: my father was a Scots 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, unbidden-dubs, biting dogs and boggles in barns, bangster wives and weat sacks; and what comfort is it, says I, to ly in the cow's oxters, 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 nor money until the evening, I began to ask for lodging, then every wife, to get me away, would either give me a cogful 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, This 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
 the stone I being at the other, there she began
 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
 move, which made me burst out into laughter
 then up gets the wife, and runs for it; I follow
 hard after into the house, and as I entered the
 door, I hard the goodman saying, Ay, ay, good
 wife, what's the hast, you run so?

No more passed, until I address'd myself to the
 goodman for quarters: which he answered, "I
 " deed lad we hae nae beds but three, my wife
 " and I, ourselves twa' and the twa bires o' lirt
 " 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 lals Jean Tirtam lie the gither, and that fill
 " them awe." O but says I, goodman, there
 some of them fuller than others, you may let me
 lie with your mother and the lals; I shall lie head
 and thraws wi' them, and keep on my breeks.
 A good keep me, quo' the lals, fra' a' temptation
 to sin, although thou be but a callen heth I
 rather lie wi' Sannock Garter: hute awa,' quo'
 the auld wife, the poor lad may lie on a bottle o'
 strae 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; I
 you will not let me stay, you'll not hinder me
 go where I please: ay, ay, said she, gae where you
 like, then I got in beyond the fire, beside the
 goodman: now said I, goodwife, I like to be here
 lsd—I 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 your's you'll have room for him too.
 Ye thief-like widdifus, said she, are ye evening me
 to be fib to the foul thief; 'tis well kend I am
 come of good honest fouks & it may be so goodwife
 said I, but ye look rather the other way, when ye
 would lodge the d— in your house, and ca' out
 a poor chapman to die, such a stormy night as
 this. What do you 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
 warth 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 shuts
 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 thrcave 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 wherin I lay,
 with some of the sheaves, so with the sleighling
 of the straw, and him talking to others, cursing
 the thieves who had done it: swearing, they had
 stole six thrcaves 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 he 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 houses in it : I went twice through it, but none of them would give me the credit to stand all night among their houses, or yet to lie in their cowstoxter : 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 straw for his horses, told him his wife had granted to let me stay, if he was not against it, to which he answered, " If I should ly in his middled dib, I should get no quarters from him that night ; a when lazy idlers valians turns a' to be chapmen, comes thro' the country fashon fouks, ay seeking quarters' the next day ye'll be gaun wi' a power'd perrwig and a watch at your arse, and winna let fouk stand before your chapdoors, ye'll be sae saucy. I hearing thus my sentence from the goodman expected no relief but to ly 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 dive down among the sheaves, and happed 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 ; last I got up with my hair all 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 supposing he had seen the d—l, 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 d—l's on the top o' the mou', sheavling his mouth at me: I'll no be sae well this month man, my heart's out o' its hule, wou but yon be a fearful like face indeed, it wou'd fright any living creature out o' their senses.

I hearing the fear they were in, cried to them not to be frightened, 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 dib, 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 that 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 into 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 Tintock-hill, where I met with a sweet companion, who was an older traveller than I, and he gave me more information how to blow the goodwife, and sleek 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 the belly, we came unto a wife who had been kiling, but she would give us nothing, nor sell much as one halfpenny's worth of her four-milna, na, said she, I'll neither sell butter, bread nor milk. 'tis a little enough to fair my ain family ye that's chapmen may drink water, ye din 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 three miles and a bittock fra this: a thief as was to swear ye there, an it wafna auld Will Miller the cobler, the ill thief a neither minister nor magistrate ever was in it a'.

O but says the other lad, the Temple-bar means by, is at London. Yea, yea, lad, an ye com'd fra 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 fra? all the way fra Italy where the Pope o' Rome dwells, says he: a sweet he was us, quoth she, for the souks there awa' is a witch and warlocks, deels, brownies and faries. W a wat that is true, said I, and that you shall know thou hard harted wretch, who would have people to starve or provoke them to steal. With that rose and lifts twa or three long straws, and casting knots on them, into the byre I went, saying thy days shall not be long: the wife following wringing her hands, earnestly praying for herself and all that was hers. I then came out at the door, and lifted 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 of Beelzebub god of Ekron, take this wife's kurn, 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 my cautrips, 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 cows good health and her own, not 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 to hear of it, and follow after us.

In a few days thereafter we came to an ale-house in a mair, 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 very throng, we could get no bed but the servant-lasses, which we was to have for a penny-worth of pins and needles, and she was to ly with her maister and misters: 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

were to ly in : one of them swore, his broad sword would fail 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 brazen 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 swelling 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 laught at me the night before, when they lay down in the bed I was to have ; but I laught as much to see them all three trot away in the morning, with their boil'd brogs in their hands.

P A R T II.

WE again came to a place near Sutry hill where the ale was good, and very civil usage, and our draught 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, tho'

all to come, went to the landlady to make up the loss of having the lime pish'd off her door-checks, and what we did not pish, 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 fourpence halfpenny, which we lovingly divided amongst us, but only three baubees a piece, and as Drouthy Tom's stock and mine was conjunct, we gave the quack again his shi—g stuff and stinking mugs, and he gave us our goods and pickles of hair, which we equally divided betwixt us, the waight of it only came to eighteen shillings and sixpence prime cost, and so we parted: I went for East Lothian, and Tom for the West; but my sorting of goods being very unsuitable for that country, I got but little or no money, which caused me to apply to the goodman for to get lodging, and it being upon a Saturday's night was heard to be found till very late in the night, I prevailed to get itaying 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-fac'd goodman.

swore he had too much stuff in in it, to venture me
 there, the goodwife said, I should not ly within
 the house, for I would be o'er near the lasses beds
 then the lads swore I should not go with them
 for I was a forjket-like fellow, and (wa. kern
 whether I was honett or not) he may fill his wall
 let w^t our cloaths and gang his wa' or day-light
 At last I was conducted out to the swine's-tye
 to sleep with an old sow and seven pigs, and there
 I lay for two nights. Here, now I began to re-
 flect on the sour fruits of drinking, and own all
 the misery just that was come upon me. In the
 night the young pigs came gruzling about me
 very kindly, thinking I was some friend of their
 mothers 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 terri-
 ble noise, so that their old mother came to ar-
 gue the matter, running upon me with open
 mouth, but I gave her such a rout ever 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 on 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 the stye to ly in
 your sows oxter, who is a fitter companion for a devil
 than any human creature; the most abominable brute upon

the earth, said I, who was forbidden to be eaten under the law, and cursed under the gospel. Be they curs'd or be they bleff'd, said he, I wish I had anew of them; but in ye will not take off my beard. ye's get nae meat here to day; then said I, if ye will not give me meat and drink for money, until the Sabbath be past, I'll tak 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 no foud 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 Chapmen. Well, I had no sooner begun to it, than out came a great big mastiff dog from below the bed, and grips 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 that pot-licking was a Chapman's property, but your dog proves the contrary: So away I comes, and meeting the goodwife at the door, bid her farewell forever; but what, said I, is your husband's name; to which she answered, John Swine; I was thinking so, said I, he is such dirty 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 Hadington, but could get no meat; when I asked if they had any to sell, they told me, they never did sell any head, 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 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,
 I can get no bread to buy in all the country, for all the
 stores and stacks you have in it; what, said he, were you
 in the minister's? I know not, said I, does he keep an
 house? O na, said he, he preaches every Sunday; and
 what does he preach, said I? is it to harden your heart
 hand well together? have no charity? hate stranger
 hunger the poor? eat and drink all yourselves? better
 burst your bellies than give it to the 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 weavers dinner for two pence
 and then set out again, keeping my course westward.
 being now night I came to a farmer's house south from
 Dalkeith; the goodman being very civil, and desirous
 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 gave
 quarters to before, though he was an elder of the parish.
 So the goodman and I fell so thick, that he ordered me
 be laid on a shakedown-bed beyond the fire, where I was
 more snug than among the swine. Now there were 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
 clearly all the night; then another rose and did the same
 last of all got up the old matron, as she appear'd to be
 like a second-handed goodwife, or a whirl'd-o'er maid
 six times overturned, and as she let her dam go, she came
 with full force, when done, let a fart like the blast of
 trumpet, which made the dust on the hearth stone to
 up like dust about her buttocks, whereat I was forced
 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 waken'd the other two, saying, O dole! what will I tell you? yon chapman body has seen a' our arses the night; shame fa' him, said they, for we had nae mind he was there; I wat well says one of them, I'fe no rise he be awa', but said the old women, gin he has seen mine I cannot help it, it's just like other fouk's, an' sien't hair I care. On the morning the old matron got up first, and ordered up the house, then told me to rise now, for chapmen and every body was up; then she asked me I had any 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 me I'fe gie you cheese 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 great quantity of old brags, which was an excellent article to make my little pack seem big and weighty: when I came into a little country village, and going in the side of a house, there was a great big cat sitting in the weaver's window, beiking 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 thro' the middle of them, burnt her feet, and threw them all to the ground, a thro' the house, crying fire and murder, in her own language, which caused the weary wicked webster to come running to the door, where he attacked me in a furious rage and I to avoid the first shock, fled to the top of the mill, where endeavouring to give me a kick, I caught him by the foot, and tumbled him back over into the dirty

midden-dub, where both his head and shoulders went under dirt and water; but before I could recover my elbows or arms, the wicked wife and her twa sons were upon me in all quarters, the wife hung in my hair, while the twa sons boxed me both behind and before, and being thus overpowered by numbers, I was fairly beat by the wicked webster, his troops being so numerous.

The same day, as I was going up to a country-house, I met on the way a poor beggar with a boy, who were 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 goes to the side of a hedge and cut a long bramble full of prickles, which I carried in my left hand with a sturdy staff in the right; and as I came near the house, Mr Youffer came roaring upon me like a lion, he being a tyke of such a monstrous size, frightened me so that I ran back; but he pursued me so hard, I was forced to face about, and holding out the briar to him, which he griped in his mouth, and then I stripped it through his teeth, and gave him a hearty blow upon his ear with my rung, 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 to go about yawning, 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 their dog came running to bite me, but my briar had bitten him, they then called him in, and fell to picking the prickles out of his tongue.

On the Saturday night hereafter, I was like to be bitten 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 which I never had, and then asked for quarters, which they re-

reely granted, thinking I was some gentle packman with a rich pack, but I being weary with travelling, could take but little or no supper! being permitted to ly in spence beside the goodman's bed, the goodwife being very hard of hearing she thought that every body was so, when she went to bed, she cried out. "A how hearie, is na yon a brave moderate chapmen we hae here the night, he took just seven scups o' our soweens, and that fill'd him fu'; a dear Andrew man, turn ye about, an' tak my cauld a——se in your warm luncheon." On the morrow I went to the kirk with the goodman, and I missing him about the door, went, in o' the middle of the kirk, but could see no empty seats but one big form, where none sat but one women by herself, and so I set myself down beside her, non 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 yonk like 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 went to dinner with the goodman, and it being the custom of that place to eat pease bread to their broth, and corn cakes to their flesh, the goodwife laid down a corn scone, and a pease scone to the goodman, and the same to me, the pease one for the broth and the corn one for the beef; and as the goodman, and I sat together, when he brake off a piece of the pease bread to his broth, I was sure to break as much of the oat cake below, and when he came to cut the flesh I did the same, so he ate the course and I the sine.

P A R T. 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 contest between the

goodman and his mother, he being a young man and married, as I understood, and formerly their sowens been to thin, so the goodman, being a sworn birly-ty of that barony, came to survey the sowens before he went on the fire, and actually swore they were o'er the and she swore by her conscience they would be thick enough if ill hands and ill een baed awa frae them; 'sweat be herè mither, said he, do ye think that I'm a witch; witch here or witch there, said the wife, swearing by her faul and that was nae banning, she said, they'll be good substantial meat a' what say ye chapman? the dead goodwife, said I sowens is but fast meat at the time but if ye make them thick enough, and put a good leetle of butter in them, they'll do very well for a supper; 'trow sae lad, said she, ye hae some sense; so the honest woman put on the pot with her sowens, and went to milk her cows, leaving me to steer; the goodman her son, soon as she went out, he took a great cag full of water and put it into the pot amongst the sowens; and then he went out of the house, and left me alone: I considered what sort of a pish the bed supper I was to get if I staid there, thought fit to set out, but takes up a pitcher with water, and fills 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 their wa-tery wicht sowens, at their own leisure.

I then turned toward the east, through a place call'd Slomannen, and was lodged one night near a place call'd Todd's Bughts, where there was a baulhorn'd 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 their cogs, she offered them to me, which I refused; 'na said she, ye're a lordly chapman 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, goodwife, I'll tell you knaws; ay chapman, what's the

d she? Indeed my feet is very cauld, said I, wherat
 ey all laught but the goodwife, she gloom'd until the rest
 re done, and took a laugh at it herself: So the good-
 in ordered all the Johnnies Jamies and Jennies with their
 heels to set about; then I was set beyond the fire, and
 eferred to steer their sowens, but when they were ready
 d put up in dishes, the goodwife order'd one of the lads
 take a pair of old blankets, and two sacks, and shew
 e where I was to lay in the barn; Ho, ho, thinks I,
 ere's no supper for me, but I'll remember this, to
 y her stock, and annual. So I went to the barn and
 y till next morning, about chapman's rising time, when
 e pottage was ready, and then gives the wife a fine
 tton lace and a few pins, which pleased her so well,
 at she went thro' the cogs and collected about a nutch-
 n of pottage for me, for which I thanked her. "A
 at well lad, an ye be coming by ony time, ye's be wel-
 me to a night of our barn, frae ye hae nae steal'd
 ething;" thanks to you goodwife, said I, that's very
 r: "Indeed lad, 'tis no every ane we'll trust wi' our
 w barn, farfore sud we?" O goodwife it would be a
 eat thief that wad run away wi' a barn on his back, I
 onder ye let it stand out all night: "Hute awa' ye
 ft body, how can we get it in, ge awa' chapman, ye're
 king me now." I then took a turn round the country
 r two weeks, and then came back to be avenged on the
 ightly wife and her sowens: it being very dark or I
 me in, the goodwife did not know me, but made her
 eech as follows: "Indeed, says she, ye's no be here,
 r there's so many thieves and robbers gawn thort the
 untry, and our goodman's no at hame; art thou honest
 ough?" I can want nothing of my honesty goodwife;
 at did you ever see any people gawn thro' the country,
 lling they were thieves? "Nay, a wat well no, said
 e." Then, said I, I'm sure I did not take away your
 rn on my back the last time I was here. "Yea lad, said
 e, are ye the chapman that cracked sae well to our

goodman? come in by, ye's get a night o' the barn
 Thanks to you goodwife, an we sud get nae mair
 then being preferred to my old seat, and got the fo
 to stir, until they were near ready, when the goo
 ordered the lad to take the old blankets, and shew
 my bed in the barn; I then gave the sowens the
 turn, and having about the bigness of a nut of C—l S
 drops it into the pot, then went off to bed in the ba
 fast as I could, and made fast both the doors withi
 the bewitched sowens, out of the pot, should attack
 in my sleep. Next morning when I came in, the g
 wife began to pray for herself and all that she had, say
 "It's Wednesday thro' a' the world, and good be
 tween you and me, chapman, for ye're either a wic
 a warlock, or something, that's no canny, for ye w
 our sowens last night, for they gaed mad, raged ou
 the pot, belling and bizzing like barm, I thought
 wad run out to the barn to you, see how they fill'd
 my milk-tub, and a' the dishes in the house is fu
 them." Dear goodwife, said I, they were very g
 when I left them, tho' I did not pric them, and I w
 them as much good of them as I got, but certainly
 are not witcht, but a blessing in them, when they ar
 multiplied. 'Gae awa', cryed she in a passion, y
 no canny, ye's ne'er be here again." I need not w
 that, said I, for I have nothing to thank you for, but
 dinner, supper, and breakfast, and for a night of
 barn, I'll pay it when I come back: "Ay, ay, said
 you need not thank me for what ye did not get." Th
 no my fault, goodless goodwife, said I, prosperity to
 and your witch'd sowens,

The next little town I came to, and the first h
 which I entered, the wife cryed out, 'Plague on
 snout fir, ye filthy black-guard chapman like b—h
 are, the last time ye came here, ye gard our Sandy
 the good bane kame it I gaide a sax-pence for in Falk
 ay did ye ay, sae did ye een, and said ye wou'd gie

suckle clear button to do it: Me, said I, I never had with you a' the days of my life, and do not say that body is mine: "A wae worth the body, am I saying had ado wi' me. I wadna hae ado wi' the like o' me, not I am sure, wi' them I never saw." But what about the button and the bane kame goodwife? Sannock nae this the man! Ay is't cried the boy, gie me my button, for I burat the kame and she paid me fo't. Gae a fir, said I, your mother and you is but mocking me. Was either you or ane like you, or some other body. Goodwife, I mind who it is now, 'tis ane just like me, when ye see the tane ye see the tither, they ca' him Jock Spither. A wae worth him, quo' the wife, if I win-traple him for my good bane kame. Now, said I, goodwife, be good, bridle your passion, and buy a bane kame and a colour'd napkin, I'll gie you a whaken pen-worth will gar you sing in your bed, if I should sell you a tae half, and gift you the tither, and gar you pay for every inch o't sweetly or a' be done: Hech man, said I, ye're a hearty fellow, and I hae need o' a' these things, but a bane kame I maun hae: for our Sannock's hand is a hotchen, and our John's is little better, for ane them alane but ae eight days, they'll grow as grit as sets. And here I sold a bane kame and a napkin, for I believed such a douse lad as I, had no hand in making a boy burn the bone comb.

The next house I came into there was a very little boy, sitting on a table like a t——d on a truncher, with his legs plet over o'her, made me imagine he was a suck-three footed taylor; first I sold him a thimb'e, and when he wanted needles, which I shewed 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 by the fire, thinking I would not perceive him: O, said I, 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 standing
 near by, come said I, sit about you theiving dog
 gether up my needles, gethers up ten of them; come
 he, I'll buy twal penny's worth of them, frae I trow
 you sae muckle; no, said I, you lousie dog, I'll sell
 none, if there's any on the ground, seek them up and
 them in a beast's a—se; but if ye were a man, I would
 you in the fire, tho' it be in your own house, but as
 are a poor taylor, and neither man nor boy, I'll do no
 but expose you for what you are. O dear honest
 man, cried his wife, ye manna do that and I'll gie
 cheese and bread. No, no, you thieves, I'm for no
 but vengeance; no bribes, for such: So as I was lifting
 pack, there was a pretty black cat which I spread
 napkin over, took the four corners in my hand, carry
 her as a bundle, until I came about the middle of
 town; then provoking the dogs to an engagement with
 so that that there came upon me four or five collies, the
 threw the poor taylor's cat in the midst of them, the
 terrible battle ensued for some time, and badrons
 certainly died on the field, had I not interposed, and
 her off mortally wounded; the people who saw the ba
 alarmed the taylor, and he sallied out like a great cham
 with his elwand in his hand, go back, said I, you l
 dog, or I'll tell about the needles, at which word
 turned about. I went into an ale-house to get
 breakfast, there they asked me where I was all night
 it was usual in that country for chapman to get
 where they lodged, I told where I was, but would
 none of their meat, because, said I, they seem to be
 to be conny, for this morning they were making rop
 cold sowens to crown up their stacks wi': Gae awa, c
 the wife, I canna believe it; if you will not believe it,
 in your ignorance for me the wife set away her fo
 see if it was so, but or he came back I set out,
 travelled down the side of a water called Evan: and
 I was coming past a mill dam, there was a big clow

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Now lifting a pitcher of water out of the dam, so as he
 it full and set it down on the ground, staring at me,
 tumbled in himself out of sight o'er head and ears, and
 soon as he got out, I said, Yo ho friend, did you get
 fish? What an a fish, ye b—h; O said I, I thought
 had seen a fish, when you jumped in to make it jump
 : what a d—l fir, are you mocking me? runs round
 pitcher, and gives me a kick on the a—se, so that I fell
 gnedly on his pitcher, and it tumbled down the bank,
 went in pieces: his master and another man looking
 laughing at us, the poor fellow complained of me to
 a, but got no satisfaction.

The same evening as I was going towards the town
 Linlithgow, meets an old crabbed fellow riding upon
 old glaid mare, which he always was a threshing upon
 h his stick: goode'en to you goodman, said I, are you
 ng to the bull wi' your mare? what do you say fir, they
 ng to the bull wi' a cow ye brute. O yes goodman, ye
 right, said I, but how do they call that he-beast that
 es on the mare'e backs, they ca't a cuffer fir, a well
 an goode'en to you master cussar. He rides a little bit,
 n turns back in a rage, saying, I say fir, your last words
 war then your first, he came then at the flight, to ride
 down, but I struck his beast on the face, and in the
 rt turn about, it fell, yet or I could get my pack to the
 ound, he cutted me on the head at the first stroke, I
 n getting clear of the pack, played it away for some
 he, till by blows on the face, I made him blood on both
 uth and nose; then he cried out chapman, we are
 th daft, for we'll kill ourselés and mak naething o't, we
 d better gree; with all my heart, said I, and what will
 buy? nothing but a pair of beard shears said he, and
 e me them cheap, so I sold him a pair of shears for
 ee half pence, and gave him a needle, then parted good
 nds after the battle was over.

So I went to Linlithgow that night, where I met with
 outhy Tom my sweet and dear companion, and here

we held a most terrible encounter with the tippan
 two nights and a day; and when we set out for Fif
 the hair order, by the way of Toryburn and Culross
 coming up to a parcel of women, washing by a water.
 I buys one of their hairs, the time I was cutting i
 Tom fell a courting and kissing a girl among them,
 was of the haveral sort, what happened I know not,
 she cried out, ye misteard filthy fallow, ye put your
 a tween my feet, mair need anither thing sud be ther
 ill chance on your picture, cried an old wife, for mo
 ane has tane me be there in dassing, and I ne'er sa
 word about it, a wheen daft jades, canna ye had
 tongues when it's to your shame ye speak: gae twa',
 the las, he, filthy body at he is, the last chapman
 kist me had a horse-pack, but he'll hae naething in his
 a wisp of strae, some auld breeks, hair-skins, mauking
 ony thing that fills the bag and bears bouk, and ye
 would kifs and handle me, hech I was made for a b
 fallow; ane of them came by ae day, and sell'd our
 twa ell and a quarter o' linen to be her bridal sark, fo
 had nae mair, and when she made it, and put it on
 wadna hide her hech, hech, hech, he.

F I N I S.

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