

THE SONGS OF SIMPLE SIMON.

II.—THE WALLOPING BANDOLIER.



YOU may laugh if
you will at this
song of mine,
You may greet
my tale with a
sneer,
But you'll never
meet with so
moving a lay
As the Tale of
the Bandolier.

A handsome young Bandolier was he
(And they *can* be gorgeously gay),
And full of spirit, and blithe and free,
Was the Bandolier of my lay.

But, alas! that we cannot all perfect
be!—

I pause to remove a tear—
He was—I grieve to say it—he was
A *Walloping* Bandolier!

Now a Bandolier who wallops, you
know,

Is not a respectable person;
And a delicate subject he is, by the
way,

For a poet to have to write verse on.

But with this particular Bandolier
It was not an original habit,
For to walloping, clearly, he ne'er had
been prone

If it hadn't have been for the Rabbit!

For one dark, dark night, when no
moon was seen,
When all was still on the sea,

The Bad Rabbit came to the Bandolier
And whispered, "Oh, come with me!

"Oh, come with me to the dark sea-
shore,

Where the waves break soft on the
sand,

And there you shall see a wonder-
ful sight!"

And he seized the Bandolier's hand.

Away they went to the lonely beach,
And they crouched down behind a
rock,

And—I know not what sight the Ban-
dolier saw,

But he never got over the shock!

Some say that they witnessed a Mer-
maids' Dance,

Some say that they saw the Gra-
boon;

Some say that they went in an ice-
cream boat

To visit the Man in the Moon.

They may be right or they may be
wrong,

The truth we never shall know;

For the Rabbit has never been heard
of since,

He has gone where the Bad Rabbits
go.

And the Bandolier sits weeping alone
On the top of a lonely rock,
And there he wallops the livelong day,
For he's never got over the shock!



"SOME SAY THAT THEY WITNESSED A MERMAIDS' DANCE, SOME SAY THAT THEY SAW THE GRABOON" (p. 104).

And as he wallops, he mutters
 low
 Strange, incomprehensible words ;
 And now he swims as the fishes
 swim,
 And now he flies like the birds.

You may laugh if you will at this tale
 of mine,
 You may greet this song with a sneer,
 But there surely can be no sadder
 sight
 Than a Walloping Bandolier !

SIMPLE SIMON.