

**THE BESOM MAKER
& OTHER COVNTRY
FOLK SONGS**

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The Besom Maker & Other Covntry Folk Songs by Heywood Sumner

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HEYWOOD SUMNER

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THE BESOM-MAKER

&

OTHER COUNTRY FOLK SONGS

Collected and Illustrated

by HEYWOOD SUMNER



London

LONGMANS, GREEN & CO., 39 Paternoster Row

& New York: 15 East 16th Street

1888.



PREFACE

This little book contains a few old fashioned country songs. Songs which still may be heard where ploughmen strike their furrows, and still sung at harvest suppers by the old folk who do not change their tune to the times. Indeed when thus heard.... Song & Singer seem to be inseparable, for singers such as these have a quaint personal style & an unexpected manner of prolonging their best notes which cannot be imparted & which almost baffles notation. Nevertheless, apart from their local rendering and though these simple tunes are caged in bars, I hope that there still remains a true echo of the country in these "terrible old fashioned" songs as here presented.

Respecting their authenticity and antiquity, I will hazard no opinion, but rather I would humbly try to profit by the wisdom of Uncle Remus who, it may be remembered, checked the little boy's critical questions concerning 'Miss Meadows' and de gals' by telling him that 'dey wuz in de tale' — 'Miss Meadows en de gals wuz — en de tale I give you like hi't wer? gun ter me'. So would I preface these songs by telling, that — with one exception — they were collected from the original sources above referred to, and that anything appearing to be corrupt or obscure either in the words or tunes is 'in de tale' and — 'de tale I give you like hi't wer? gun ter me' — While finally I would express my belief that the tunes & versions here given are not included in any current British song & ballad book.

H. S.



Brand's popular Antiquities gives a version of the —
 ——— Wassail song but ——— no tune thereto ———



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