OLD ISLE OF WIGHT SINGING GAMES.

(Curwen's Edition, 5685.)

Collected and Edited by

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"Old Surrey Singing Games and Skipping Rope Rhymes,"
"Eight Hampshire Folk-songs," etc.



LONDON:

J. CURWEN & SONS Ltd., 24 BERNERS STREET, W.

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PRICE ONE SHILLING. NET CASLE



No. 2.—" See this pretty little girl of mine."



No. 13.—" The grand old Duke of York."



No. 6.—"Rosy apple, lemon or pear."



No. 14.—"Hark! the robbers."



No. 22.—"Here comes a Duke from sunny Spain."



No. 12.—"My man John."

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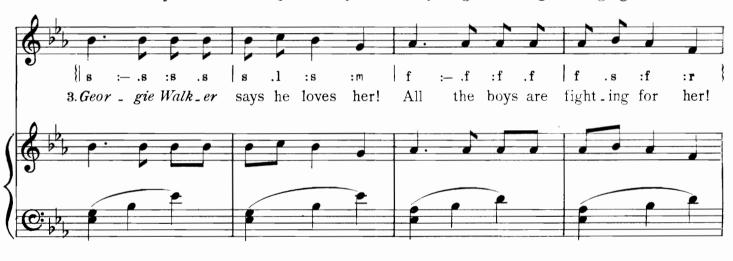
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No. 1. THE WIND BLOWS HIGH.





Then they all bend down to the ground, and the last that touches the ground must tell the name of her sweetheart. After she has whispered a boy's name, they all go round again, singing:-





No. 2.

SEE THIS PRETTY LITTLE GIRL OF MINE.

A ring of children dance round, one standing alone in the middle:-



The first child then goes into the ring, and the chosen one stays in her place.

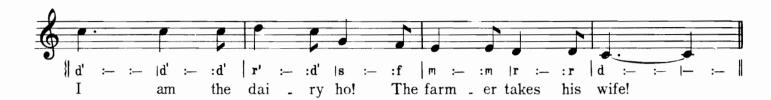
No.3. THE DAIRY HO!

(THE FARMER'S IN HIS DEN.)

The children form a ring round one in the middle, singing:-









The second child chooses a third from the ring:- The wife

The third child takes a fourth:-The fourth child takes a fifth:-

The fifth child takes a sixth:-

The sixth child takes a seventh:The seventh takes the eighth, and last:-

The wife takes the child,
The child takes the nurse,
The nurse takes the dog,
The dog takes the cat

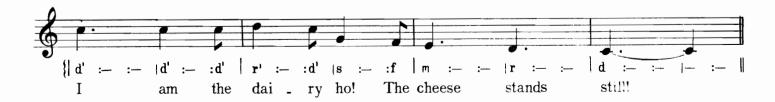
The dog takes the cat,
The cat takes the mouse,
The mouse takes the cheese,

The wife takes the The child takes the The nurse takes the The dog takes the The cat takes the The mouse takes the









No. 4. BINGO.

A number of children form a ring round one, who stands inside a lesser ring of five, and all dance round her, singing:-



After the first dance round they all come to a standstill, and the middle one points to one after another in the ring, giving the letters of the word in succession. Those who guess the right letter are left in the ring, who dance round as before, singing the same words. The second time they come to a standstill, the one in the middle points indiscriminately here and there all round the ring; if a wrong letter is given, the child who gave it must join the inner circle; if right, she stays in the ring. The game goes on, with the dance round every time, till nearly every child has been taken inside the second ring.

No. 5.

THE JOLLY MILLER.

CHOOSING PARTNERS.

An equal number of boys and girls move round in two circles, the boys outside and the girls in; as the game continues, the girls are outside and the boys in. They all dance round one in the centre,



All change partners, and the Miller in the middle makes a dash to secure a partner as they do so. If he succeeds in getting one, the boy who is thus left out becomes Miller in his place. Then the couples dance round the other way and separate, going right and left, the boys and girls meeting each other at the end and choosing other partners as they come round. This is danced to the snatch of some old song, usually "The Jolly Miller."

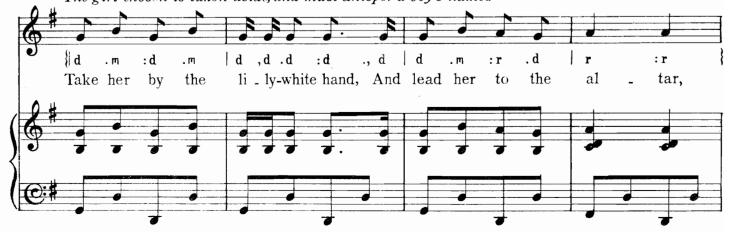
No. 6. ROSY APPLE, LEMON OR PEAR.

This is played by the smallest children, boys and girls, the girls with bunches of roses in their hands, all dancing round in a ring.





The girl chosen is taken aside, and must whisper a boy's name:-





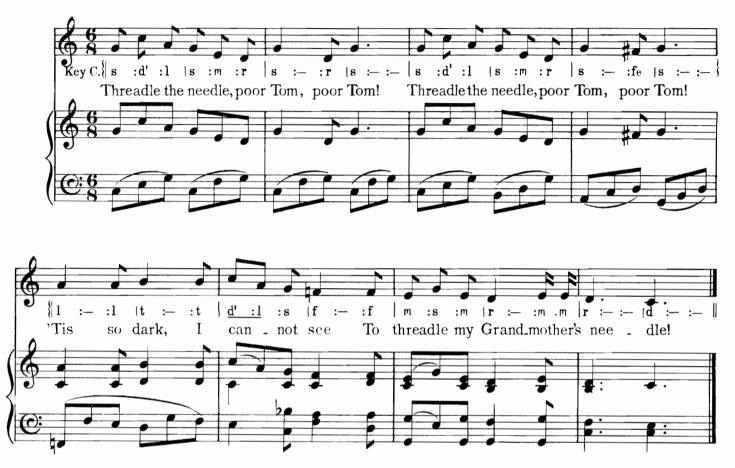


No. 7.

THREADLE THE NEEDLE.

MARCHING GAME.

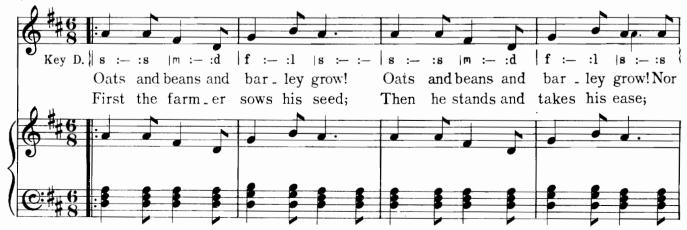
This is played by children walking singly in a line, holding on to each other's skirts, and singing:-



⁺⁾Also sung as a tag to other games. See "How many miles to Barbary Land?" Game No. XXI.

No. 8. OATS AND BEANS AND BARLEY.

The children form a ring round six others standing in a ring, round one in the middle, singing:For (The girl in the middle holds her pinafore and goes through the action of sowing seeds, and all in Verse 2 (the ring follow her movements, as the song suggests.





BABES IN THE WOOD.

(GYPSIES IN THE WOOD.)

This seems to have been formerly played by boys and girls standing either in a ring or on opposite sides, taking up alternate verses in answer to each other. Now-a-days it is played either by two children clapping hands together, as they sing, or in the following way:- Two or more children, the gypsies, hide behind a bush, while others go off and pretend to pick flowers. Another child (the Mother) stands by the tree chosen for Home.



The children leave home singing:-

She would say
If I did
She'd knock my head
With the teapot lid!
Away I went
And said I should
Play with the gypsies
In the wood!

While they pick flowers, the two gypsies spring out of their bush and catch all they can. But they must let one or two have a chance to run back to tell the Mother.

The gypsies sing:-

The woods were dark! The grass was green, Up comes Sally

They clap their hands:- With a tambourine!

Tambourine!
Tambourine!
Up comes Sally
With a tambourine!

The tambourine
Was made of skin
And she kept beating it
Out and in;
The tambourine
Was made of wood;
Up came Sally
With a scarlet hood!

They catch the children:-

O, my little dear!
What a cough she's got!
Come with me
To the Bull's Eye Shop!
Have one drop!
Have two drops!
Come with me
To the Bull's Eye Shop!

While the Mother goes to search for the missing children one way, they go home by another round-about path, so that when she gets home she finds all her children there before her.

Concluding Chorus of children:-

She went to the river
And she couldn't get across!
She paid ten shillings
For an old blind horse!
The horse fell down,
And the cart ran away!
Billiock, billiock
Dee, daw, day!

No. 10.

A HUNTING WE WILL GO.

RING DANCE.

This seems to have been formerly played as a Marching Game, the children forming into couples and marching round the ring; separating into two rows, going right and left, and meeting at the other end to form into couples again; as in the closing part of "The Jolly Miller". It is now played only as a ring game, the children dancing round, with linked hands, singing:-



No. 11. WHEN I WAS A LADY.

A number of children walk round in a ring, singing:-





d'.d':s

: m Happy and gay! See all this way, This way, this way, See all this way, Al_li, gal_lie!

: m

11 ,1 .t ,t :t .d':--

Walk round as before, stroking their lips, then sing round in the ring as before:-

1

: m

When I got married, Married, married, When I got married, Happy and gay! See all this way, This way, this way, etc.

Pair off and walk round in couples. Form ring as before:

When I had a baby, Baby, baby, When I had a baby, Happy and gay! See all this way, etc.

Walk round the ring one after the other, rocking their outheld arms; then form into ring as before:-

When my baby dièd, Dièd, dièd, When my baby dièd, Sorrowful and sad! See all this way, This way, this way, See all this way, My poor baby!

Walk round with hands held over face. Form ring once more.

Where shall I bury it? Bury it, bury it? Where shall I bury it? Sorrowful and sad? Bury it under the ash tree, Ash tree, ash tree, Bury it under the ash tree, My poor baby!

Walk round the ring in twos and twos as if following a funeral. Then the ring breaks up.

No.12.

MY MAN JOHN.

BALL GAME.

This is a boy's game, though girls sometimes join in it. A ball is thrown up against the wall of a house and caught again, whilst the others are running round, then thrown at the runners (much in the manner of Rounders) and whoever the ball hits has to be "My Man John," and is beaten first with one fist, singing:-



The second whom the ball hits is "My man Redcap," and the song goes on:-

Beating my man Redcap With a ree, rah, ratty O!

The third is:-

My man Bluecap, etc.

The fourth is:-

My man Greencap, etc

And so on to the end of the game, choosing a different coloured cap each time a boy is hit and taken.

THE GRAND OLD DUKE OF YORK.

MARCHING GAME.

Two rows of children, usually boys and girls, march one behind the other, with a captain at the head of the line to give orders. Two chairs are placed back to back, and as the two lines march up and down again they must leap on and over the seats of the chairs, singing, as they pass up and double round:-



The Captain calls "Halt!" Then "Ranks face!" "Kneel!" The boys kneel to the girls. Then "Present arms!" The boys and girls place one hand on each other's shoulder, the girls also kneeling. "Salute!" They kiss. Then "Rise!" The girls stand up and bow, or curtsey to the boys. Then "Right about face! Murch!" And the song begins again.

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No. 14.

HARK THE ROBBERS.

The children form equal sides, and two others link arms and stride up and down between the lines with stamping feet, singing as they go:-





Chorus.

They have stole you watch and chain, Watch and chain, watch and chain, They have stole your watch and chain, My fair ladye!

Robbers.

We've not stole you watch and chain! Watch and chain, watch and chain! We've not stole your watch and chain! My fair ladye!

Chorus.

Forty pounds they'll have to pay, Have to pay, have to pay, Forty pounds they'll have to pay My fair ladye!

Robbers.

Forty pounds we have not got! Have not got! have not got! Forty pounds we have not got! My fair ladye!

Chorus.

Off to prison they must go! They must go, they must go! Off to prison they must go! My fair ladye!

Robbers.

Off to prison we won't go! We won't go, we won't go! Off to prison we won't go! My fair ladye!

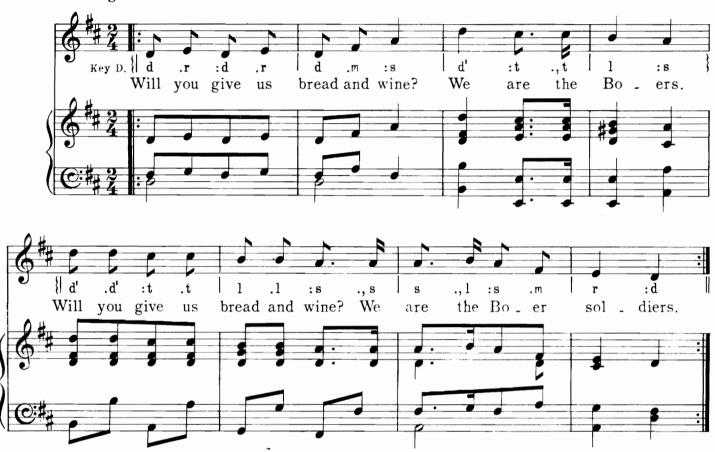
Then the foremost children on both sides close in upon the Robbers as they pass up for the last time and those who catch them and bear them out as prisoners must play the Robbers in their stead.

No. 15.

ENGLISH SOLDIERS.

(BOERS AND ENGLISH.)

An equal number of children pick up sides and stand in two rows, facing each other. The first side sings:-



The second side sings in answer:-

No, we won't give bread and wine!

We are the English!

We won't give you bread and wine,

We are the English soldiers!

The first side sings:-

Then we'll tell our King of you!

We are the Boers!

Etc. etc.

Second side:-

We don't care about your King!

We are the English!

Etc. etc.

First side:-

Will you have a fight with us?

We are the Boers!

Etc. etc.

Second side:-

Yes, we'll have a fight with you!

We are the English!

Etc. etc.

Children on both sides raise their arms as if holding

a gun, shouting, "Bang! Bang! Bang!"

First side sings:-

Will you make up friends with us?

We are the Boers!

Etc. etc.

Second side answers:-

Yes, we'll make up friends with you!

We are the English!

Etc. etc.

Both sides then form a ring and dance round, all singing:-

inging.-

Now we've made up friends again!

We are the English!

Now we've made up friends again!

We are the English soldiers!

No. 16.

YELLOW GRAVEL.

The children join hands in a ring.



All stoop to the ground. The last one that touches the ground must give her sweetheart's name, and turn her back to the ring.



Mary has now to turn and face the ring, and the game begins again; the last one to touch ground giving sweetheart's name as before.

No. 17.

LONDON IS THE CAPITAL.

Boys and girls form in two rows on opposite sides (as for "Sir Roger de Coverley") and go through the steps of a country dance, singing as the couples go up the middle and down again etc., etc: And continue singing same words till the dance is ended.





THERE STANDS A LADY.

Children join hands and walk round in the middle, singing:-







No. 19.

SALLY WATERS.

The children join hands round a girl in the middle; all sing together:-





Here the boy and girl kiss and then join hands with the rest of the children in the ring, and two others take their places in the middle:-

No. 20.

DOWN IN THE MEADOWS.

RING CHORUS:-

Join hands in a ring; one boy and girl in centre. (Where boy's name and girl's name are given it is the name of those who stand in centre of ring.)



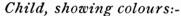


HOW MANY MILES TO BARBARY LAND?

The children stand in a line, and one by one come up to two girls who stand, holding hands across to bar the way, as in "Oranges and lemons."

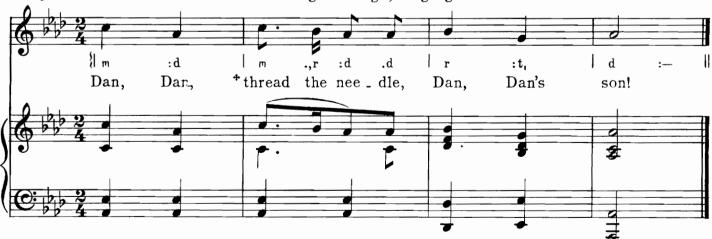








They raise their hands and let the child go through, singing:-

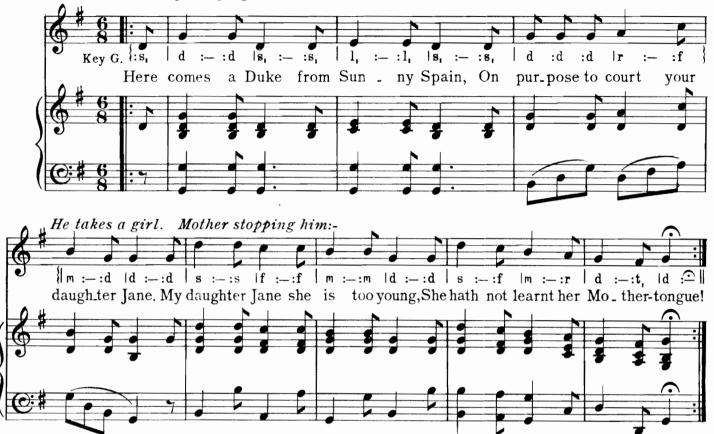


⁺ See "Threadle the Needle,"-Game VII.

Each child in the line asks the same questions as she comes up, till all have passed through to the other side:-

HERE COMES A DUKE FROM SUNNY SPAIN.

The girls must stand in a row with the one chosen to be Mother. One boy stands opposite them and comes up, singing:-



Duke:-

Let her be young, or let her be old, For her beauty she must be sold!

Mother:-

Go back, go back, you Spanish Knight! And rub your spurs till they are bright!

Knight:-

My spurs are bright from tip to toe And in the street I take my woe!

Girl:- (calling him back):-

Come back, come back, you Spanish Knight! And choose the fairest in your sight! Go through the parlour and into the hall, And choose the fairest of us all!

Duke:-

The fairest one that I can see Is(name of girl,) come over to me!

He then leads the girl back to the Mother, saying:-

I have brought your daughter safe and sound; And in her pocket one thousand pound, And on her finger a gay gold ring; To-morrow, to-morrow, the wedding begin!

The Duke comes back and forward, taking a different girl each time, till all the girls have been chosen and brought home to the Mother.