The Gipsy Countess Part 1.



There came an Earl a riding by,

A gipsy maid espyed he;

O nut-brown maid, from green wood glade,

O prithee come along with me."

"I am so blythe, as bird so gay.

In thy castle tall, in bower and hall,

I fear for grief I'd pine away."

"Thou shalt no more be set in stocks,
And tramp about from town to town,
But thou shalt ride in pomp and pride
In velvet red and broidered gown."
"My brothers three no more I'd see,
If that I went with thee, I trow.
They sing me to sleep, with songs so sweet,
They sing as on our way we go."

"Thou shalt not be torn by thistle and thorn, With thy bare feet all in the dew. But shoes shall wear of Spanish leather And silken stockings all of blue."
"I will not go to thy castle high, For thou wilt weary soon, I know, Of the gipsy maid, from the green-wood glade, And drive her forth in rain and snow."

"Al night you lie neath the starry sky
In rain and snow you trudge all day,
But thy brown head, in a feather bed,
When left the gipsies, thou shalt lay."
"I love to lie 'neath the starry sky,
I do not heed the snow and rain,
But fickle as wind, I fear to find
The man who now my heart would gain."

"I will thee wed, sweet maid," he said,
"I will wed with a golden ring,
Thy days shall be spent in merriment;
For us the marriage bells shall swing."
The dog did howl, and screeched the owl,
The raven croaked, the night-wind sighed;
The wedding bell from the steeple fell,
As home the Earl did bear his bride.