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COUNTING-OUT RHYMES.



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COUNTING-OUT RHYMES  
OF  
CHILDREN.

BY

REV. WALTER GREGOR, LL.D.,  
PITSLIGO.

LONDON: DAVID NUTT, 270 STRAND.

1891

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# COUNTING-OUT RHYMES.

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## I.—USE OF COUNTING-OUT RHYMES.

Most people know what counting-out rhymes are, and for what purpose they are employed. They consist mostly of a jingle of words with swing and rhyme that have little or no meaning. They are met with in all parts of the world. They are used by children in this part of the country to find out who is to begin any game they engage in. Those intending to take a hand in the game arrange themselves commonly in a line, and one is chosen to "count out." The counting-out always goes from left to right, or according to the course of the sun. The one who "counts out" either begins or ends with himself or herself in counting. The rhyme is repeated word by word, and, at the same time, the finger is pointed to each player as the word is spoken. The player on whom the last word falls is "out," and stands aside out of the line. The same process is gone through till all the players are counted out except one and the one who counts. The rhyme is again repeated between the two, and the one on whom the last word falls is "it." Sometimes the rhyme was repeated but once, and the one on whom the last word fell was "it," *e.g.*, in the game of "Tackie," or "Tackie among the Rucks."

## II.—WHAT THEY MEAN.

This mode of counting-out is an appeal to the lot. The lot has been in use in all ages, and, it may be safely said, among nations of all degrees of civilization—from the most barbarous to the most civilized community.

The use of lots prevailed among the Jews, and their mode of looking on the casting of lots is expressed in Prov., xvi., 33—"The lot is cast into the lap (or, may be, urn); but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord." Lots were used by them for various purposes. A few examples will suffice. Men were chosen by lot to punish the inhabitants of Gibeah for the outrage committed on the Levite's concubine. Canaan was divided by lot among the tribes (Numb. xxvi., 55, 56; Joshua xviii., 10; Acts xiii., 19). The prophet Obadiah refers to strangers casting lots on Jerusalem (11). After the return from captivity, those who were to settle in Jerusalem were chosen by lot—one tenth for Jerusalem, and "nine parts to dwell in other cities"—(Nehem. xi. 1, 2). The lot was employed in the choice of persons to office. Thus Saul was chosen by lot (I. Sam. x., 20, 21), and Matthias was elected in room of Judas Iscariot as one of the twelve Apostles (Acts i., 24, 26). The distribution of the priestly offices in the temple service was fixed by lot (I. Chron. xxiv., 3, 5, 19), as well as those of the Levites (I. Chron. xxiii., 28; xxiv., 20, 31). The selection of the scape-goat on the day of atonement was made by lot. "And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats—one lot for the Lord, and the other lot for the scape-goat" (Lev. xvi., 8). The detection of a criminal was carried out by means of the lot, as in the case of Achan, who coveted among the spoils of the captured city of Jericho "a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight (Joshua vii., 12, 18). Jonathan, on the occasion of his smiting the Philistines and tasting a little honey in ignorance of his father's having laid a curse on the people not to taste either food or drink till their enemies were completely overthrown, was discovered by the casting of lots to have disobeyed (I. Sam. xiv., 41, 42). In the story of Jonah ("The lot fell on Jonah"—Jonah i., 7) lots were cast to find out who on board was the one on whose account the storm was sent.

“No Chinaman will open a shop, marry a wife, or engage in any important undertaking without casting lots to see if the fates are propitious. The method of carrying this out is as follows:—Each temple in China has belonging to it about a hundred stanzas of poetry relating to a variety of subjects; each stanza is numbered and printed on a separate piece of paper; in addition to this, there are a quantity of lots made of bamboo slips about eight inches long, corresponding to the number of stanzas, and referring to them by number. The individual who wishes to make application to the god presents himself before his image on his knees, and after performing the *ko-tow*, by touching the ground with his head nine times, states his name and residence, the object of his inquiries, and whether on his own or on another's account. He then takes a bamboo tube containing the lots, and shakes it gently before the idol until a slip falls to the ground. He then rises from his knees and picks up this slip, and places it so that the god can see the number written on it; he then takes two pieces of wood, each having a round and a flat side. After passing these through the incense, he tosses them in the air before the idol: if they fall so that both round sides are uppermost, the answer is negative and everything is unpropitious; if they fall with one round and one flat side up, the answer is in the affirmative, and the man may go on his way rejoicing.”\*

Tacitus tells that the Germans cast lots to find out the future. They cut the branches of a tree into small slips, distinguished them by certain marks, and then threw them at random on a white cloth. If the prognostication was for the public, the priest first offered up a prayer to the gods, and then took up each slip three times, and from the marks interpreted what the future was to bring forth. If the prognostication was for the family, it was the father that acted the part of diviner. (*De Moribus Germanorum* 10).

Among the Romans future events were prognosticated from the casting of lots. These lots were a kind of dice made either of wood, gold, or other material, with certain letters, words, or marks inscribed on them. They were thrown commonly into an urn, sometimes filled with water, and drawn out either by a boy or by the one who consulted the oracle. The priests of the temple interpreted the meaning of the lots as they were drawn out. The lots were sometimes thrown like common dice. At times it was decided by lot who was to preside at a meeting. Thus, at the committee for electing the consuls and creating the prætors, the consuls fixed by lot which of them was to preside, if they did not decide by consent. Sometimes the election of magistrates, priests, and other functionaries was effected by the lot.

\*The Folk-lore of China, by N. B. Dennys, Ph. D., F.R.C.S., p. 39.

Among the Greeks recourse was had to the lot for various purposes. Magistrates, jurymen, and others bearing offices were at times appointed by lot. So were priests. Champions in battle were also chosen by lot.

“Casting the kevils” was and still is a common mode of deciding a thing. Thus, in the ballad of “Fause Foodrage” it is said—

“And they cast kevils them amang,  
And kevils them between;  
And they cast kevils them amang,  
Wha should gae kill the king.”

It was the usual mode adopted by our fishermen in dividing their fish after each fishing. The fish, on the arrival of the boat from the fishing ground, were divided into as many parts as there were fishermen in the boat. Each fisherman gave something—a stone, a knife, anything handy, which he could recognise as his “kevil,” to some one standing by. The “kevils” were cast on the heaps of fish, when each fisherman at once recognised what he had given, and so claimed his share. Farmers used to divide the sea-weed in the same way, when they were in the habit of carting it away for manure.

All know the mode of “drawing cuts” by means of two pieces of straw, grass, wood, or any other material ready at hand, of unequal length. This is a mode of settling a matter widely spread, and of great antiquity. Horace refers to the game *par impar*, i.e., to play at odd and even (Satires 2, 3, l. 248). The Greeks called playing at the game *ἀπτιάξεν*. In Belgium it is called *paar of onpaar*. The game goes on the same principle as drawing cuts.

A mode of divination in vogue among the Romans was by writing one or more lines from Homer, Virgil, or the Sibylline Books on slips of paper and casting them into an urn. A slip was then drawn out, and from its contents was divined good or bad fortune. This mode of divination was called *Sortes Virgilianæ*, *Homericæ*, &c. *Sortes Virgilianæ* were the best known. One example will suffice. Alexander Severus wished to find out whether he would become Roman Emperor. The line—

“Tu regere imperio populos, Romane, memento,”\*

turned up. He became Emperor (A.D. 222—235).†

Christians from the earliest times of Christianity employed the same sort of divination, but instead of Virgil, Homer, or the Sibylline books, they used the Bible. Such a mode of divination went by the name of *sortes sanctorum*, i.e., either *scriptorum*, *librorum*, *bibliorum*, or *codicum*. The Psalter or the Book of the Evangelists was most commonly used, but other books by church writers were also called into service.

\* Ænead, vi., l. 852. † See Rabelais, b. III, c. x.

In later times the Church condemned the prognostication of the future, and the punishment for consulting the lots was excommunication. In a curious treatise, at one time attributed to St Augustine, occur the words : " Et qui per scripturas sanctas Denm, quid ei facturus sit, expectatur, quid ipsas indicent scripturas . . . iste non christianus, sed paganus est."\*

There was another kind of divination by the Bible, and this, if I mistake not, continues to the present day. I have heard it spoken of not very many years ago. The Bible was opened at random, and from the verse on which the eye first rested conclusions were drawn whether there would be success or not in what was to be undertaken.

It is now an acknowledged fact that some of the games of children are survivals of what was once the occupation of men in less advanced stages of civilization, and that others of them are imitations of what they will be engaged in when they come to years of maturity. Imitation is as necessary for a child as meat and drink. What these children saw men doing in settling matters by lot they did. So much then for the fact of the use of counting-out rhymes as an appeal to the lot.

### III.—ORIGIN.

A few words as to the origin of the rhymes themselves. It may be stated at once that their origin is involved in the greatest obscurity, and not much has been as yet done to throw light on this interesting subject. What I have got to bring forward is but a tentative groping. They may have come from several sources.

I. From what has been termed " The Anglo-Cymric Score " (20). This was a mode of counting, particularly sheep and cattle, in the northern counties of England, and in some districts of the south of Scotland. There are many forms of it, and there is little doubt but some of the words are Welsh. Mr Ellis says :—" To me the Welsh numerals seem to be the framework of the whole score, and the infantile rhymes to be mere succursals."†

The modern Welsh numerals are :—

1 un	6 chwech	11 un ar ddeg	16 un ar bymtheg
2 dau	7 saith	12 deuddeg	17 du ar bymtheg
3 tri	8 wyth	13 tri ar ddeg	18 tri ar bymtheg
4 pedwar	9 naw	14 pedwar ar ddeg	19 pedwar ar bymtheg
5 pump	10 deg	15 pymtheg	20 ugain

\* Homilia de Sacrilegiis, III. 8, p. 7.

† Transactions of the Philological Society, 1877-79, p. 316—372.

2. Before the casting of the lots prayer was commonly offered up. These prayers, misunderstood and therefore easily corrupted or parodied, may have furnished others.

3. In the cure of diseases formulas or conjurations were often repeated along with the ceremonies gone through to bring about a cure. The pronouncing of formulas over wounds or diseased parts of the body, or over those labouring under disease, goes back to the remotest ages, and is very widely spread. Many of these formulas or conjurations have been recovered from the cuneiform writings of the Chaldeans. Here is one :—

Painful fever, violent fever,  
The fever which never leaves man,  
Unremitting fever,  
The lingering fever, malignant fever,  
Spirit of the heavens, conjure it! spirit of the heavens, conjure it!\*

The pronouncing of formulas over one labouring under disease, or over any diseased or injured limb, was quite in common use all over Europe till not very long ago, and the practice may be met with even yet. To write certain words on a piece of paper and to carry it on the body was a favourite method of cure. Often these words seem to have no meaning. Thus the words for the cure of a disease called in Denmark *gutta* were "Tepal, guth, gutta, Niteas, Ne ganim guspas." The piece of paper on which these words were written was to be carried always on the person.† For the patient to repeat or read certain words was also enjoined. Thus in Denmark the words for the cure of rheumatism and stitches were "Ox, rox, ronon, uperninen paternam," with the repetition of five Paternosters.‡ Eugene Rolland gives as a counting-out rhyme an incantation used in Sologne on the Sunday of Torches at the beginning of this century. The inhabitants on the night of that Sunday, carrying torches of straw, went round their fields singing the incantation for the protection of the crops. He adds in a note :—"I believe that many of the rhymes of children are old incantations."§

4. Some of them seem to be fragments of poems composed on national or local historical subjects. Thus the one—

Eetem for peetem,  
The King cam' to meet him,  
And dang John Hamilton doon,—

has the appearance of referring to some historical incident. In the one—

\* Chaldean Magic, by F. Lenormant, p. 5.

† Det Arnamagnæanske Handskrift, p. 86. ‡ Ibid, p. 88.

§ Rimes et Jeux de l'Enfance, p. 242.

Queen, queen Caroline  
 Dipped her face in turpentine ;  
 Turpentine made it shine,  
 Queen, queen Caroline,—

direct reference is made to Queen Caroline of Brunswick, consort of George IV. Pitre in his work entitled "Giuochi fanciulleschi" (pp. xxv. ff.) gives instances from several European countries relating to historical events.

5. Others have no doubt been strung together without reference to anything.

#### IV.—FORM OF THE RHYMES.

In the "Anglo-Cymric Score" the numbers go by fives. A very common form of counting-out rhymes is by fours. Here is a typical one :—

Anery, twary, tiekory, teven,  
 Hallaby, crackaby, tenaby, leven,  
 Peem, pam, musky, dam,  
 Feedlum, fadlum, twenty-one.

But there is much variety of forms, from a single line to a considerable number. Swing and rhyme prevail in most of them. The syllables *ry* and *by* are added to the end of many of the words to form the swing. When one word is formed the following is formed to go with it, either by a change of consonants as "hallaby, crackaby," "allibone, crackibone," or by a change of vowels with the same consonants, as "tim, tam," "pim, pam," "peem, pam," "feedlum, fadlum," "tweedlum, twadlum," "wheedlum, whadlum," "tweedltum, twadltum," "tiesh, tosh," "feelicy, falicy."

#### V.—CLASSIFICATION.

At the first glance there seems to be no order or connection in these counting-out rhymes. Still there are several well-marked groups.

##### GROUP I.

The rhymes of this group begin with *anery*, *twaery*, or *twary*, and commonly end with *twenty-one*. The lines are formed very regularly. It falls into three well-marked sub-groups, viz. :—

- (a) In which *teven* or *taiven* ends the first line.
- (b) In which *seven* or *saiven* ends the first line.
- (c) In which *ten* ends the first line.
- (d) A number having the last line ending with the word *twenty-one* cannot be arranged with much satisfaction.

## (a)

Anery, twary, tickery, teven,  
Hallaby, crackeby, tenaby, leven,  
Pim, pam, musky, dam,  
Feedlum, faadlum, twenty-one.

(Banff)

Eery, aary, tickery, teven,  
Hallaby, crackaby, tenaby, leven,  
Pim, pam, musket, dam,  
Feedlum, fadlum, twenty-one.

(Turriff)

Eenery, twaery, tackery, teven,  
Halaba, crackery, ten, or eleven,  
Peem, pam, whisky, dam,  
Teedletam, toddletam, twenty-one.

(Aberdour)

Eenery, twaery, tuckery, teven,  
Hallowby, crockery, ten, or eleven,  
Peem, pam, musky, dam,  
Feedilum, fadilum, twenty-one.

(Aberdeen)

Eenery, twaery, tickery, taiven,  
Hallamy, crackerty, ten, or elaiven,  
Peem, pam, musky, dam,  
Fiddletam, faddletam, twenty-one.

(Fraserburgh)

Anery, twaery, tickery, taiven,  
Hallama, crockery, ten, or alaiven,  
Pim, pam, musky, dam,  
Feedlum, fadlum, twenty-one.

(Tyrie)

Eenty, teenty, tickerty, teven,  
Hallowmy, crackerty, ten and eleven,  
Ann, tan, whisky, dam,  
Feelicy, falacy, twenty-one.

(Sandhaven)

Anery, twaery, tickery, tyven,  
Halima, crackery, ten or elyven,  
Peem, pam, fusky, dam,  
Teedletum, toddletum, twenty-one.

(Rathen)

Anery, twaery, tuckery, taiven,  
Hallary, rackerty, tenby, laiven,  
Pot, pan, musky, tan,  
Eetlums, potlums, twenty-one.

(New Deer)

Anery, twaery, tickery, taiven,  
Alliby, crackery, tenaby, laiven,  
Peem, pam, musky, dam,  
Tweedlem, twadlem, twenty-one.

(Lonmay)

Eenery, twaery, tickery, taiven,  
Allaby, crockaby, tenaby, elaiven,  
Pin, pan, musky, dam,  
Feedlum, fodlum, twenty-one.

(Banff)

Enery, twaery, tuckerty, teven,  
Allaby, crackery, ten, eleven,  
Pin, pan, musky, dan,  
Tweedlum, twadlum, twenty-one.

(Fochabers)

Enery, twaery, tickery, taiven,  
Allaby, crockery, ten or elaiven,  
Peen, pan, fusky, dam,  
Wheedlum, whadlum, twenty-one.

(Fraserburgh)

Anery, twaery, tickery, tiven,  
Allaba, clock, ten and ileven,  
Pim, pam, musky, dam,  
Feedlum, fadlum, forty-one.

( ? )

Eenery, twaery, tuckery, taven,  
Allibone, crackibone, ten or elaven,  
Spun, span, it must be done,  
Tweedletum, twadletum, twenty-one.

(Aberdeen)

Anery, twaery, tickery, taiven,  
Cockieby, loviby,  
Tim, tam, whisky (or musky), dam.

(b)

Oner, twoery, tickery, seven,  
 Allaby, crackery, ten and eleven,  
 Pin, pan, musky, dan,  
 Tweedledum, tweedledee, twenty-one.  
 (Fraserburgh)

Anery, twaaery, tickery, seven,  
 Allaby, crackaby, ten an eleiven,  
 Pin, pan, musky, dan,  
 Tweedletum, twadletum, twenty-one,  
 (Rathen)

Ener, twoery, tickery, seven,  
 Allaby, crackaby, tenaby, eleven,  
 Ping, pang, musky, dan,  
 Tweedalem, twadalem, twenty-one.  
 (Edinburgh)

Oner, twoery, tickery, seven,  
 Allaby, crackaby, ten, eleven,  
 Ping, pang, whisky, dang,  
 Teedlim, toddlim, twenty-one.  
 (Elgin)

Anery, twaery, tickery, saiven,  
 Allaby, crockaby, tenaby, laiven,  
 Peem, pam, musky, dam,  
 Feedlum, fodlum, twenty-one.  
 (Alvah)

Eener, twaery, tickery, saiven,  
 Allaby, crackaby, ten, or elaiven,  
 Pin, pan, musky, dam,  
 Tweedlum, twadlum, twenty-one.  
 (Keith)

Oner, tounery, tickery, seven,  
 Allaby, crickaby, tennery, leven,  
 Pin, pan, muska, dam,  
 Tweedlam, twadlam, twenty-one.  
 (Glasgow)

Oner, twory, tickery, seven,  
 Allibi, crackabi, ten or eleven,  
 Pin, pan, musky, dan,  
 Tweedlum, twodlum, twenty-one,  
 Black fish, white trout,  
 Eery, ory, you are out.  
 (Grantown)

Anery, twary, tickery, saiven,  
 Hallaby, cockaby, tenaby, lyven,  
 Pin, pan, musky, dan,  
 Tweedlum, twadlum, twenty-one.  
 (Fraserburgh)

Anery, twaaery, tickery, seven,  
 Hallaby, clackaby, ten and eleven,  
 Teish, tosh, maca, bosh,  
 Tid, taddle, tiddle, stink.  
 (Keith)

Oner, twoery, tickery, seven,  
 Hallaby, crackaby, tenaby, leven,  
 Ping, pang, musky, dang,  
 Teedlum, todlum, twenty-one.  
 (Moffat)

Oner, twory, tickery, saiven,  
 Holloby, crockoby, tenby, elaiven,  
 Peem, pam, busky, dam,  
 Teedlum, todlum, twenty-one.  
 (Dyke)

Anery, twaery, saxery, seven,  
 Allama, craik, ten, eleven,  
 Pink, pank, musky, dam,  
 Fiddlum, faddlum, twenty-one.  
 (Tarland)

Eener, twaery, tickery, seven,  
 Allamy, annery, ten, or eleven,  
 Pin, pan, whisky, ban,  
 Tweedlum, twadlum, twenty-one.  
 (St Fergus)

Oner, twoery, tickery, seven,  
 Alara, balara, ten, or eleven,  
 Teem, tam, musky, dam,  
 Teedletum, tadletum, twenty-one.  
 (Ellon)

Eery, oory, dockery, seven,  
 Alenna, crackery, ten, or eleven,  
 Peem, pom, it must be done,  
 Alenna, crackery, tenery, one.

( ? )

(c)

Onery, twoery, tickery, ten,  
Alliby, crackiby, ten, or eleven,  
Peem, pam, musky, dan,  
Tweedlum, twadlum, twenty-one.

(Fochabers)

Onery, twoery, tickery, ten,  
Allaby, crackaby, ten and eleven,  
Pin, pan, musky, dan,  
I choose you out.  
(Grantown)

Enery, twaery, tickery, ten,  
Allaby, crackaby, ten, or eleevin,  
Pim, pam, musky, dam,  
Queevry, quaaavry, English man.  
(Portsoy)

Anery, twaery, tickery, ten,  
Bobs o' lory, English men,  
Fish in the sea, birds in the air.  
Lady, come linkin doon the stair.  
(Fochabers)

Anery, tary, tickerie, ten,  
Bobsy, lory, English men,  
Weery, wary, widgeon, wash,  
Ink, pink, butter, link,  
Ye're oot. ( ? )

Anery, twary, tickry, ten,  
Epsom, bobsum, gentle men,  
Pim, pam, whisky, dam,  
Feedlum, fadlum, twenty-one.

(Keith)

(d)

Onery, twoery, dichery, davy,  
Almo, crackmo, tenbo, lavy,  
Pin, pan, musky, dam,  
Tiddlum, toddlum, twenty-one.

(Sutherlandshire)

Eenity, peenity, pickety, iven,  
Hallima, crackery, ten, or eleven,  
Pcen, pan, whisky, dan,  
Come riddle, come roddle, come twenty-one.  
(Rathen)

Zaina, daina, dina, disk,  
Kittla, faila, fila, fisk,  
Each, peach, must be done,  
Tweedlem, twadlem, twenty-one.  
(Nairn)

Anery, twaery, tickery, ten,  
Bobs, minces, English men,  
Queery, quarry, ink, pink,  
Butter, lock, stock, stink.  
(Glenrinnnes)

Anery, tawery, tickery, ten,  
Hobsum, bobsum, English men,  
Quibus, quabus, Irish men,  
Stinkum, stankum, block.  
(Keith)

Anery, twary, tickery, ten,  
Bob, slob, Irish men,  
Keary, kary, ink, pink,  
Butter, lock, stock, rink.  
(Grantown) ?

Anery, twary, tickery, ten,  
Bobsie, munsie, gentle men,  
Ting, tang, musky, dam,  
Teedlum, fan, twenty-one.  
(Keith)

As I am a die, and a dee, and a dish,  
Kittle a fly, a flee, and a fish,  
Each, fish, must be done,  
Teedlim, toddlim, twenty-one.  
(Elgin)

Holsum, bolsum, English men,  
Tweedlem, twadlem, twenty-one.  
( ? )

Pin, pan, musky by dam,  
Eedlem, tweedlem, twenty-one.  
(Aberdour)

GROUP II.

This group may be named the *Eetim, peetim* group. The first line is *Eetim, peetim, penny pie*, or *Heetim, peetim, penny pie*. It falls into two sub-groups—

(a) With the first line ending in *penny pie*; and

(b) With the first line ending in *penny pump*.

The rhymes vary from two to five lines.

(a)

Eetim, peetim, penny pie,  
Staan ye oot by. (Tyrie)

Eetim, peetim, penny pie,  
Pop a lory, jenky jye,  
Ah, day, doo, die,  
Staan ye oot bye. (Lonmay)

Itim, peetim, penny pie,  
Pop a lory, jinky jye,  
Ah, day, doot,  
Staan ye oot bye. (Pitsligo)

Eetem, peetem, penny pie,  
Cock a lorie, jenky jye,  
Ah, day, doot,  
Staan ye there oot bye. (New Deer)

Eetim, peetim, penny pie,  
Poppy lory, jinky jye,  
Aas, daas, doots (doos), dies,  
Stan' ye oot by. (Rathen)

Eetem, peetem, penny pie,  
Pop a lory, jinky jye,  
Aas, ees, oos, ink,  
Pease, pottage, smas, drink. (Strichen)

Eetem, peetem, penny pie,  
Poppy lory, jenky jye,  
Ae, zoo, zee, zink,  
Pease, pottage, smas, drink. (Tortorston)

Eetim, peetim, penny pie,  
Poppy lory, jenky jye,  
I choose you oot  
For a lump o' penny troot. (Rathen)

Variant of last line—  
For a lump o' puddin' croot. (Lonmay)

Eetim, peetim, penny pie,  
Poppy lory, jenky jye,  
I chise you oot  
For a lump of puddock croot, (Rathen)

Eetem, peetem, penny pie,  
Pop o' lory, jenky jye,  
Stan' ye oot bye  
For a bonnie apple pie. (Cullen)

Eetem, peetem, penny pie,  
Pop o' lory, jenky jye,  
Staan ye oot bye  
For the bonnie penny pie. (Mintlaw)

Eetim, peetim, penny pie,  
Cock a lory, jinky jye,  
Staan ye oot bye  
For a bonny penny pie. (Portsoy)

Eetim, peetim, penny pie,  
Pop a lory, jenky jye,  
Staan ye out by  
For a bonnie penny pie,  
Eery, ory, ye're out. (Ellon)

Eetem, peetem, penny pie,  
Pop a lory, jenky jye,  
Ah, day, doot, sty,  
Staan ye oot bye  
For a bonnie penny pie. (Banff)

Eetem, peetem, penny pie,  
 Pop a lory, jenky jye,  
 Ah, deh, die,  
 Staan ye oot bye  
 For the bonnie pie.

(Rhynie)

Eetem, peetem, penny pie,  
 Poppy lory, jenky jye,  
 Ease, aase, ease, ink,  
 Pease porridge, small drink.  
 As I went by yon pear tree,  
 All the pears stood by me,  
 A ha'penny pudding, black trout,  
 I choose you out.

(Inverness)

Eetem, peetem, penny pie,  
 Poppy lorry, jenky jye,  
 Ease, aase, ease, ink,  
 Pease porridge, small drink,  
 Pease pudding hot, pease pudding cold,  
 Pease pudding in the pot, nine days old,  
 A ha'penny pudding,  
 A ha'penny pie,  
 I choose you by.

(Inverness)

Heetum, peetum, penny pie,  
 Poppy lory, jinky jye,  
 Ah, days, dites, stites,  
 Staan ye oot bye.

(Cushnie)

Heetum, peetum, penny pie,  
 Pop a lory, jinky jye,  
 Eady, outside,  
 Staan ye oot bye.

(Keith)

Heetim, peetim, penny pie,  
 Pop a lory, jink jye,  
 Ah, deh, do, die,  
 Staan ye oot bye  
 For the bonnie penny pie.

(Auchterless)

Hetem, petem, penny pie,  
 Pop a lory, jinky jye,  
 Au, tan, toap,  
 Stan ye out bye  
 For a bonny penny pie.

(Fraserburgh)

(b)

Eetem, peetem, penny, pump,  
 A the ladies in a lump,  
 Sax or saiven in a clew,  
 A' made wi' candy glue.

(Fraserburgh)

Eetem, peetem, penny, pump,  
 A' the boys in a lump,  
 Sax men an a coo,  
 A' caed ower wi' candy glue.

(Aberdour)

Eetem, peetem, penny, pump,  
 A' the laddies in a lump,  
 Black puddin', fite troot,  
 I choose you oot  
 For a dirtin discloot,

(Lonmay)

## GROUP III.

This group is distinguished by the words *domin* or *domine* in the second line; once *dolman*. It falls into two sub-groups, viz. :—

(a) In which the first line ends with *fegg* or *faig*; and

(b) In which it ends with *fae* or *fay*.

The first line of one rhyme ends in *ta*, of a second in *pae*, of a third in *fell*, and of a fourth in *tegg*. The number of lines in the rhymes varies. The normal number is four. In one rhyme the number of lines is six.

(a)

Eenerty, feenerty, fickerty, fegg,  
 Ell, dell, domin, egg,  
 Irky, birky, story, rock,  
 An, tan, toos, Jock.

(Mintlaw)

Variants of first and third lines—

Innerty, finnerty,  
 Irka, birka.

(Rathen)

Variant of fourth line—

Am, tam, toosh, Jock.

(Aberdour)

Eenerty, fickerty, faig,  
 Ell, dell, domin, aig,  
 Irky, birky, story, rock,  
 Am, tam, toosh, Jock.

(Forfar)

Eenerty, feenerty, fickerty, faig,  
 Ell, dell, domins, aig,  
 Irky, birky, story, rock,  
 An, tan, you're Jock.

(Forfar)

Inerty, finerty, fleckety, faig,  
 Ell, dell, domin, aig,  
 Irky, birky, story, rock,  
 An, tan, toos, Jock.

(Glasgow)

Innerty, finnerty, fickerty, fegg,  
 Ell, dell, domin, egg,  
 Iry, birky, story, rock,  
 Am, tam, toosh, Jock,  
 Eery, awry, you are out of this

G-a-m-e.

(Dysart, Fifeshire)

Eenerty, feenerty, fickerty, fegg,  
 Ell, dell, doman, egg,  
 Irky, birky, story, rock,  
 Am, tam, tetherum, toosht,  
 I choose you oot  
 To be the great muckle black dishcloth.

(Fetteresso)

Eenerty, feenerty, fickery, fegg,  
 Ell, dell, dolmans, egg,  
 Irky, birky, story, rock,  
 Areny, faremy, dickery, dook,  
 Ellemy, fellemy, tacksen, doot,  
 Hoot, toot, ye're oot.

(Tarland)

Eenity, finity, fickety, fegg,  
 Ell, dell, domans, egg,  
 Irky, birky, story, rock,  
 An, tan, tooss, Jock.

(Pitsligo, Fraserburgh)

Iseenty, teenty, fickerty, faig,  
 Zel, del, domin, aig,  
 Isurky, burky, story, rock,  
 Isan, dan, toos, Jock.

(Dyke)

Zeenty, teenty, fickety, faig,  
 Zell, dell, domin, aig,  
 Zirky, birky, story, rock,  
 An, tan, tcosht.

(Fochabers)

Enity, fenity, ficty, fegg,  
 Ell, dell, domins, egg,  
 Irka, birka, story, rock,  
 An, tan, toosh, Jock,  
 Black pudding, white trout,  
 That shows you are out.

(Kincaldrum Gardens, Forfar)

(b)

Eeenerty, feenerty, fikerty, fae,  
 Ell, dell, domine,  
 Irky, birky, stole a rock,  
 An, tan, toos, Jock.

(Meiklefolla)

Inity, finity, fickerty, fae,  
 Ell, dell, domane,  
 Irky, birky, story, rock,  
 Am, tam, tush, Jock.

(Fraserburgh)

Eenity, feenity, fickety, fay,  
 Ell, dell, dominay,  
 Erky, birky, stole a rock,  
 Ane, tane, toos [two's], Jock.  
 (Old Aberdeen)

Zeenty, feenty, fickety, fae,  
 Zell, gell, domine,  
 Zirky, birky, scorinae,  
 Zan, gan, toosh.  
 (Cushnie)

Senty, tenty, ticity, fae,  
 Sell, dell, domine,  
 Sirky, birky, story, rock,  
 San, dan, tusht,  
 Eery, ory, I choose you oot.  
 (Glenrinnes)

Zeenty, teenty, tickety, tegg,  
 Zell, dell, domin, egg,  
 Irky, birky, stock, a rock,  
 An, tan, tourlem, toosht.

(Dyke)

Eenity, feenity, ficer, ta,  
 Fae, ell, dell, domina,  
 Irky, birky, story, rock,  
 An, tan, toust.  
 (Banff)

Eenty, peenty, pickety, pae,  
 All, dall, dominae,  
 Arty, barty, soory, rock,  
 Ant, tant, toos, Jock.  
 (Lonmay)

Eenty, teenty, figgerty, fell,  
 Ell, ell, damma, dell,  
 Lorky, porky, tarry rope,  
 An, tan, towsy, Jock.  
 (Sandhaven)

## GROUP IV.

In this group occur the words *black hen*. It falls into two sub-groups—

(a) The last line ends with the words *black craw*.

(b) The last line is the same as the first.

The formula always consists of four lines.

(a)  
 Eenity, feenity, my black hen  
 Lays an egg for gentlemen ;  
 Files ane, an files twa,  
 An files a bonnie black craw.  
 (Fraserburgh)  
 Variant of first line—  
 Inity, finity, &c.  
 (Old Aberdeen)

Innerty, finnerty, my black hen  
 Lays an egg for gentlemen ;  
 Whiles ane, whiles twa,  
 Whiles a bonnie black craw.  
 (Dysart, Fifeshire)

(b)  
 Eenity, peenity, my black hen,  
 She lays eggs for gentlemen ;  
 Sometimes one, and sometimes ten,  
 Eenity, peenity, my black hen.  
 (Perth)  
 Inty, tinty, my black hen  
 Lays an egg for gentlemen ;  
 Sometimes nine, and sometimes ten,  
 Inty, tinty, my black hen.  
 (Fraserburgh)

Inky, pinky, my black hen,  
 She lays her eggs for gentlemen ;  
 Sometimes nine, and sometimes ten,  
 Inky, pinky, my black hen.  
 (Foveran)

Higley, pigley, my fat hen,  
 She lays eggs for gentlemen;  
 Sometimes nine, and sometimes ten,  
 Higley, pigley, my fat hen.  
 (Macduff)

Variant—  
 Higilty, pigilty, &c.  
 (Macduff)

GROUP V.

In this group *tippenny*, *tuppenny*, or *twopenny bun* is the leading word. It falls into two sub-groups, viz. :—

- (a) In which *cat* occurs; and
- (b) In which *cock* occurs.

Eenty, teenty, tippenny bun,  
 The cat geed oot to get some fun;  
 She got some fun, she played the drum,  
 Eenty, teenty, tippenny bun.  
 (Sandhaven)

Zeenty, teenty, tippenny bun,  
 The cat went out to get some fun;  
 She got some fun by playing the drum,  
 Zeenty, teenty, tippenny bun.  
 (Dyke)

Ynky, pinky, hallogolum,  
 The cat went out to get some fun:  
 It got some fun at Toddy's grun,  
 Ynky, pinky, hallogolum.  
 (North Lanarkshire)

Eenty, teenty, twopenny bun,  
 The cock went out to get some fun;  
 He got some fun, and played the drum,  
 Eenty, teenty, twopenny bun.  
 (Elgin)

Zinty, tinty, two-penny bun,  
 The cock went out to have some fun;  
 He had some fun, he played the drum,  
 Zinty, tinty, two-penny bun.  
 (Grantown)

GROUP VI.

This group begins with *eeny*, *meeny*, or *eena*, *mina*. In some the first word is *zeeny*, *senny*, or *zenny*. It also falls into two sub-groups—

- (a) The last two words of the first line of this sub-group are *myny mo*, and the first line is repeated as the last.
- (b) The last two words of the first line are *mitta* or *mutta ma*, and the first word of the last line is *ant* or *anty*.

Eeny, meeny, miny, moe,  
 Catch a nigger by the toe,  
 If he squeals then let him go,  
 Eeny, meeny, miny, moe.  
 (Cullen, Nairn, Banchory)

Eeny, meeny, miny, moe,  
 Catch your neighbour by the toe,  
 If he quarrels let him go,  
 Eeny, meeny, miny, moe.  
 (Sandhaven)

Eena, meena, mina, moe,  
 Jaek, alack, asina, so,  
 E, K, kitlie, klam,  
 Thou shalt be my soldier man,  
 To ride my horse, to beat my drum,  
 Out go, la, she.

(Aberdeen)

(b)

Eeny, meeny, mit a mat,  
 Dum ado, dum adat,  
 Eenty, tenty, peal, a rose,  
 An, tan, tush, toes.

(Fraserburgh)

Zeeny, meeny, mina, ma,  
 Dum ado, dum ada,  
 Zanty, panty, pull a roe,  
 Anty, tanty, tush, toe.

(Grantown)

Senny, menny, mitta, ma,  
 Dum, ado, dum, ada,  
 Zanty (santy), panty, pillar, roe,  
 Ant, tant, toosh, toe.

(Grantown)

Variants of first line—

Eeny, meeny, &c.  
 Zinny, minny, mutta, ma, &c.

(Grantown)

Zeeny, meeny, meta, ma,  
 Dum ado, dum ada,  
 Zante, pante, pull a roe,  
 Ant, tant, toosht, toe.

(Dyke)

Eena, meena, mona, maek,  
 Pass, alona, gona, strack,  
 Eery, weery, fond, waek,  
 Irky, birky, wee, wo, waek.

(Fraserburgh)

Endy, bendy, bendy, bough,  
 Hold the tiger by the tow,  
 If he cries let him go,  
 Endy, bendy, bendy, bough.

(Cullen)

## GROUP VII.

The distinguishing words of this group are *king* and *John Hamilton*. It seems to point to some historical event.

Eetum for peetum,  
 The king cam t' meet him,  
 And dang John Hamilton doon.

(Tyrie)

Variants of fourth line—

And dang John Hamilton doon the brae.  
 (Tyrie)

An broke bis muckle big tae.  
 (Peterhead)

And brok's mither's muckle tae.  
 (Strichen)

Heetum for peetum,  
 The king cam to meet him,  
 And dang John Hamilton doon the brae.  
 Ary, ory, Virgin Mary,  
 Stan' ye oot bye  
 For a bonnie penny pie.

(Auchterless)

GROUP VIII.

The words *eese*, *ose*, and *man's nose* or *man's brose* mark out this group. The rhymes vary in length.

Ese, ose,  
Man's nose,  
Ese, ose,  
Oot.  
(Lonmay)

Ese, ose,  
Man's nose,  
Chappit tatties and pease brose.  
( ? )

Eesy, osy,  
Mannie's nosie,  
Eesy, osy,  
Oot.  
(Fraserburgh)

Eesy, osy,  
Mannie's nosie,  
Oot goes she.  
(Sandhaven)

Eese, ose,  
Man's nose,  
A potty fou o' water brose.  
(Banff)

Variant of first line—  
A cuppie full of water brose,  
(Cullen)

Eesy, osy, man's nose,  
A pottie full o' water brose,  
I choose you oot,  
For a bonnie penny pot.  
(Sandhaven)

Eese, ose,  
Man's brose,  
Eese, ose,  
Oot.  
(Grantown)

Eese, ose,  
Man's brose,  
My dog's dead,  
My cat's away t' the cradle wi' a sair head,  
Canna crack a biscuit, canna smoke a pipe,  
Hi, Johnnie Heelanman, your breeks is too tight.  
(Fraserburgh)

Eesy, osy,  
Man's brose,  
Eesy, osy,  
Oot.  
(Nairn)

Eese, aase, oose, zink,  
Pease pottage, sma' drink.  
(Banff)

Eese, ouse, aase, ink,  
Sups my porritch,  
An sma's iny drink.  
(Mintlaw)

Eese, oose, aase, ink,  
Peyse porridge, sma drink,  
As far's I think,  
Ye leave the play rink.  
( ? )

Eese, aase, oose, ink,  
Pease pottage, sma' drink,  
Twa an twa's a tippenny loaf,  
Twa an twa's it.  
(Banff)

Eese, aese, oose, ink,  
Pease parritch, sma' drink,  
Eeligo, alligo, mutchkin, fairy,  
Bom, bell, fiddle, stink.  
(Cushnie)

Eesy, osy,  
Mannie's nosie,  
My dog's dead,  
The cat's away to the cradle wi' a sair head,  
Canna crack a biscuit, canna smoke a pipe,  
Little Johnnie Middleton's breeks is ower tight.  
(Fraserburgh)

## GROUP IX.

This group is marked out by the words *ticker a-been* or *tickery been*. The rhymes consist of four lines. The Fraserburgh version has *Queen o' Jerusalem* and *ocus, pocus*, and one version *locus*.

Endy, tendy, ticker a-been,  
I sent a letter to the Queen,  
The Queen o' Morocco said to me  
Hocus-pocus, one, two, three.  
(Rathen)

Inty, tinty, tickery, been,  
I sent a letter to the Queen,  
The Queen of Jerusalem said to me  
Hockie, spokie, one, two, three.  
(Fraserburgh)

## GROUP X.

The word that marks this group is *Ann*. It occurs in the first line. In one rhyme *am* is used instead of *Ann*. The rhymes vary in length from three to seven lines. The word *Irishman* appears in a good many of the rhymes.

Eery, ary, ickerty, Ann,  
Feelicy, falicy, Nicholas, John,  
Sticklum, stanklum, twenty-one.  
(Cullen)

Eery, ary, ickerty, Ann,  
Feelicy, falicy, mixem, John,  
Queever, quaaaver, Irish man,  
Stinklum, stanklum, buck.  
(Sandhaven)

Eery, aary, ackertie, Ann,  
Feelicy, faalicy, mixin, John,  
Queevry, quavry, Irish man,  
Stinklum, stanklum, buck.  
(Portsoy)

Eery, ory, eckerty, Ann,  
Feelicy, falicy, mixed am, John,  
Queever, quaaaver, Irish man,  
Stinklam, stanklam, back oot.  
(Fraserburgh)

Eery, ory, ickery, Ann,  
Feelison, falison, fixon, John,  
Quivis, quaaavis, Irish man,  
Feelisy, fallisy, buck.  
( ? )

Eery, ory, ikery, Ann,  
Freelicsome, frolicsome, mixen, John,  
Queever, quaaaver, Irish man,  
Steek 'im, stock 'im, buck.  
(Lonmay)

Eery, airy, ickerty, Ann,  
Squeery, squaary, Irish man,  
Feelison, falison, duxin, John,  
Stiggerin, staggerin, buck.  
(Aberdour)

Eery, ary, ekarty, Ann  
Feelisy, falisy, mixim, John,  
Queevry, quavry, buxom Mary,  
Peem, pam, pot.  
( ? )

Eery, ary, eckerty, Ann,  
Hob, bob, an Irish man,  
A fish in the sea, a bird in the air,  
A lady came jumping down the stair.  
(Cullen)

Eery, aary, eckerty, Ann,  
Bobs and vinegar, I began,  
Feelicy, fallacy, mix them, John,  
Queevey, quaaavery, Irish man.  
(Deeside)

Eery, ary, aickarty, Ann,  
Bobs an vinegar, I began,  
Eet, at, moose, fat,  
Fin a riddle, bum, fiddle,  
Fink, fank, fizz.  
( ? )

Eery, aary, ecerty, Ann,  
Bobs in vinegar, I began,  
Eat, at, moose, rat,  
I choose you oot for a penny pie,  
Pur. (Banff)

Eery, airy, ackerty, Ann,  
Hunches, bunches, English man,  
Back oot, back in,  
Back throw the heely pin,

Peter cam t' oor door  
Playin at the pipes,  
Cum a riddle, fizz, oot. (Keith)

Eerie, orie, ickery, am,  
Pick-me, nick-me, ship-me, sham,  
Oram, scoram, pick-me, nor-am,  
She, sho, sham, shutters. (Glasgow)

GROUP XI.

The words *biscuit Mary* form the keynote of this group. One rhyme has *buckertie Mary*. Is it a Protestant skit on the Virgin Mary ?

Eery, aary, biscuit, Mary,  
Pim, pam, pot. (Portsoy, Cullen)

Variant of first line—  
Eery, ory. (Cullen)

Eery, aary, biscuit, Mary,  
Peem, pam, pot,  
I choose you oot,  
For a dirty dish clout. (Fochabers)

Variant of last line—  
You're out. (Cullen)

Eery, ary, buckerty, Mary,  
Peem, pom, pudick root,  
Fite fish, black troot,  
Eery, ary, ye're oot. (Fraserburgh)

Eery, airy, biscuit, Mary,  
Peem, pam, poddick croot,  
Fite fish, black troot,  
Eery, airy, ye are oot. (Aberdour)

GROUP XII.

*Mary at the cottage door* forms the feature of this group.

Mary at the cottage door,  
Eating cherries off a plate,  
One, two, three, four. (Cullen)

Ane, twa, three, four,  
Mary at the cottage door,  
Eating cherries off a plate,  
Five, six, seven, eight. (Banff)

Variant of third line—  
Picking cherries off a plate. (Nairn)

One, two, three, four,  
Mary at the cottage door,  
Eating cherries off a plate,  
Counting two, four, six, eight,  
Mary at the cottage door. (Cullen)

Eery, ary, biscuit, Mary,  
Peem, pam, pot,  
You are for a dirty dish-clout,  
All the fairies in the carriage,  
Count one, count two,  
Till you come to Norway. (Cullen)

One, two, three, four,  
Mary at the cottage door,  
Eating cherries off a plate,  
Down fell the summer seat,  
I've a kistie, I've a creel,  
I've a baggie fu' o' meal,  
I've a doggie at the door,  
One, two, three, four. (Deeside)

Bake a pudding, bake a pie,  
 Send it up to Lord Mackay,  
 Lord Mackay's not at home,  
 Send it up to the man o' the moon,  
 The man o' the moon's making shoes,  
 Tippence a pair,  
 Eery, ary, biscuit, Mary,  
 Pim, pan, pot.

(Enzie)

## GROUP XIII.

The words *Queen Caroline* characterise this group. Instead of these words appear in one rhyme *eevil*, *eevil*, *eevil-ine*, and in another *eery*, *ary*, *arl-ine*.

Queen, queen, Caroline,  
 Rubbed her face with turpentine,  
 Turpentine made it shine,  
 Queen, queen, Caroline.  
 (Fraserburgh)

Variants of second line—

Rubs her face with turpentine.  
 (Cullen)

Dipped her hair in turpentine.  
 (Ellon)

Dipped her head in turpentine.  
 (Edinburgh)

Eevil, eevil, eevil-ine,  
 Dippt her head in turpentine,  
 Turpentine made it shine,  
 Eevil, eevil, eevil-ine.  
 (Sandhaven)

Variant of first and last lines—  
 Eery, ary, areline.  
 (Fraserburgh)

## GROUP XIV.

In this group are included all in which a man's name occurs. It may be divided into five sub-groups, according to the name and subject, thus :—

(a) *Mr Murdoch*, *Mr Monday*, *Mr Mungo and his wife*.

(b) *John Smith*, and the shoeing of a horse.

(c) *Mr Dunn*, or *Mr Smith and his scholars*. This rhyme, I am inclined to think, has reference to the once fashionable practice of sending the young to have their education completed in France, which could not be done without the accomplishment of dancing.

(d) *Johnnie Frog* refers to the same custom.

(e) Various.

(a)

"Mr Mundie, foo's yir wife?"  
 "Verra sick, an' like t' die."  
 "Can she eat ony butcher meat?"  
 "Yes, more than I can buy,  
 Half a horse, half a coo,  
 Half three-quarters o' a wog,

She mak's her pottage very thin,  
 A pound o' butter she puts in."  
 Fite puddin', black trout,  
 Ye're oot.  
 (Fraserburgh)

"Mr Mundie, how's your wife?"  
 "Very ill and like to die."  
 "Can she eat any meat?"  
 "Yes, more than I can give 'er ;  
 She makes her porridge very thin,  
 A pound of butter she puts in."  
 Black pudding, white trout,  
 I chose you to be out  
 Of this g-a-m-e,  
 Which spells game.

(Foveran)

Variants—

"Mr Mundie," &c.  
 "Half a coo, half a calf,  
 A platefu' parrish, very thin,  
 A lump o' butter plumpit in."  
 Black fish, white trout,  
 Eery, ory, you're out.  
 (Renton, Dumbartonshire)

"Mr Mundie," &c.  
 "Can she eat anything?"  
 "Yes, more than I can buy ;  
 Half a horse, half a cow,  
 Half a quarter of a sow."  
 I choose you out,  
 Up your head, turn round about.  
 (Elgin)

"Mr Mundie," &c.  
 "A pound of butter squeezed in."  
 White fish, white trout,  
 Eery, orry, you're out.  
 (Moffat)

"Mr Mundie," &c.  
 Black trout, white trout,  
 I chise you oot for a dirty dishclout.  
 (Old Aberdeen)

"Mr Mungo, foo's yir wife?"  
 "Very sick, an' like t' die."  
 "Can she eat any butcher meat?"  
 "Yes, more than I can buy ;  
 Half a sow,  
 Half an ox, half a quarter of a cow,  
 She likes her porridge very thin,  
 A pound of butter she puts in."  
 I choose you oot  
 For a penny pie, poot.  
 (Banff)

"Mr Murdoch, how's your wife?"  
 "Very ill, and like to die."  
 "Can she eat any meat?"  
 "Yes, as much as I can buy ;  
 She makes her porritch very thin,  
 Pounds o' butter she puts in."  
 Black fish, fite troot,  
 Eery, aary, ye're oot.  
 (Banff)

Variants—

"A pound of butter she puts in."  
 Fresh fish, black fish,  
 Eery, ary, you're out,  
 For a dirty dishclout.  
 (Cullen)

"Mr Brown," &c.  
 White trout, black trout,  
 Eery, ory, &c.  
 (Cullen)

"Mr Macpherson," &c.  
 White pudding, black pudding,  
 I choose you oot  
 For a bonnie poot.

( ? )

(b)

John Smith, a folla fine,  
 Cam' t' shoe a horse o' mine,  
 Shoe a horse, ca' a nail,  
 Ca' a tacket in its tail,  
 Black fish, fite troot,  
 Eery, aary, ye're oot.

(Banff)

(c)

Mr Dunn's a very good man,  
 He teaches scholars now and than,  
 And when he's done he takes a dance  
 Up to London, down to France,  
 He wears a bonnet wi' a green snoot  
 Eerie, aarie, ye're oot.

(Banff)

Mr Smith's a very good man,  
 He teaches his scholars noo an than,  
 An fin he's deen he tacks a dance  
 Up t' London, down t' France,  
 He wears a green beaver wi' a snoot,  
 Tarry, eedle, ye're oot.

(Fraserburgh)

Mr Macpherson's a very good man,  
 Teaches his scholars now and than,  
 When they get out they get a good dance  
 Up to London, down to France;  
 He wears a good bonnet, he wears a good  
 Eery, aary, ye're oot. [snoot,

( ? )

(a)

Kettie Spinner, come doon t' yer dinner,  
 And taste a leg o' Johnnie Frog,  
 Johnnie Frog is a very good man,  
 Though he takes a trip noos an nan,  
 Up to Scotland, doon t' France,  
 Eerer, arrer, ye're oot.

(Macduff)

Eringes, oranjies,  
 Two for a penny,  
 Come, all ye good scholars  
 That counted so many.  
 The rose is red, the grass is green,  
 The days are gane  
 That I hae seen.

Kettie, my spinner,  
 Cum doon t' yir dinner,  
 And taste a leg of frog:  
 Mr Frog is a very good man,  
 He takes a dance up to France,  
 Noo an than.

(Portsoy)

(e)

Rise, Sally Walker, rise if you can,  
 Rise, Sally Walker, an follow your gueedman,  
 Come, choose to the east,  
 Come, choose to the west,  
 Come, choose to the very one I love best.

(Banff)

Fussle Beardie hid a coo,  
 Black an fite aboot the moo,  
 Wisna that a dainty coo,  
 Belong't to Fussle Beardie.

(Banff)

Humble, bumble, Mister Fumble,  
 Three score an ten,  
 Learn me to double a hundred  
 Over an over again.

(Banff)

GROUP XV.

This may be called the *Mouse* group.

Dirckty, dirckty, dock,  
The mouse ran up the knock,  
The knock struck one,  
And down the mouse ran,  
Dirckty, dirckty, dock.

(Cullen)

Hickery, dickery, dock,  
The mouse ran up the clock,  
The clock strack one,  
And doon the mouse ran,  
Hickery, dickery, dock.

(Fraserburgh)

The moose ran up the clock,  
The clock struck one,  
Doon the moosie ran,  
Ickety, dickety, dog, dan.

(Banff)

Zeenty, teenty,  
Tether a-mather,  
Hover, dover,  
Banfera, haetera,  
Zickety, dickety, dock,  
The moose ran up the nock,  
The nock struck one,  
And doon the moose ran,  
Zickety, dickety, dock.

(Renton, Dumbartonshire)

GROUP XVI.

The words *let*, *at* or *aat* distinguish this group.

Eet, aat,  
Moose, faat,  
Tilly, riddle,  
Fizz.

(Tyrie)

Variant of third line—  
Tarry, eedle.

(Alvah)

Eet, at,  
Maise, fat,  
Tell a riddle,  
Bum, funk, fizz.

(Macduff)

GROUP XVII.

*Black bottle* is the main word of this group. In one rhyme *black beetle*.

Eetle, otle,  
Black bottle,  
You're out.

(Edinburgh)

Eetle, otle,  
Black bottle,  
O-n-t spells out goes she.

(Edinburgh)

Eetle, otle,  
Black bottle,  
Eetle, otle,  
Out.

(Fraserburgh)

Eetle, otle,  
Black bottle,  
My dog's dead,  
My cat gid awa till its bed wi' a sair head,  
It cannot snap a biscuit, it cannot smoke a  
pipe,  
Little Johnnie Middleton's breeks is too  
tight.

(Fraserburgh)

Eetle, peetle,  
Black beetle,  
You are out.

(Stirling)

## GROUP XVIII.

*Apple tree, apple tree* is the leading word of this group. In one rhyme it is *fairy tree*.

As I geed up the aipple tree,  
A' the aipples stack t' me,  
Fite puddin, black trout,  
I choose you oot,  
For a dirty dish clout.

(Portsoy)

As I geed up the aipple tree,  
A' the aipples fell on me,  
Bake a puddin, bake a pie,  
Stand you oot by.  
(Renton, Dumbartonshire).

As I went up the fairy tree,  
A' the fairies hang by me,  
Black puddin, white puddin,  
I choose you out for a bonnie penny pot.  
(Sandhaven)

As I geed up a fairy tree,  
A' the fairies hang be me,  
Black puddin, fite troot,  
I cheese you oot,  
For a bonnie penny poot,  
I cheese you oot.  
(Rosehearty)

As I went up the apple tree,  
All the apples fell on me,  
Bake a puddin, bake a pie,  
Send it up to John Kackay,  
John Mackay is not in,  
Send it up to the man of the moon,  
The man of the moon is sewing his sheen,  
Three buckles and a farthing in.  
(Elgin)

Variants of the last three lines—  
Send it up to the man in the moon,  
The man in the moon is making shoon,  
Twopence the pair, and they're a' doon.  
(Edinburgh)

Send it up to the man o' the mune,  
The man o' the mune's making shoon,  
Penny a pair, a' dune.  
(Moffat)

## GROUP XIX.

The words *puddin*, *fish*, and *trout* mark out this group. Many of the rhymes consist of two lines, and the last line ends with *oot* or *ost*.

Black puddin, fite trout,  
I choose you oot. ( ? )

Black fish, fite troot,  
Eery, aary, ye're oot.  
(Banff)

Black hen, fite troot,  
Eery, aary, ye're oot.  
(Keith)

Black fish, white trout,  
I choose you out.  
(Fraserburgh)

Black troot, white trout,  
I choose you oot. ( ? )

Eety, peaty, penny pie,  
Pop a-lory, jinky, jye,  
White fish, black trout,  
I spied you out.  
(Glenrinnnes)

Eenty, teenty, tippenny bun,  
Pop i-lory, jinky, jye,  
Black trout, fite trout,  
I chise you out.  
(Cullen)

Inky, pinky, penny pie,  
Pop a-lory, jinky jye,  
Black fish, white trout,  
I chose you out.  
(Tyrie)

Me and the minister's wife keest oot,  
 Guess fat it wiz aboot,  
 Black puddins, pease soup,  
 Eery, ory, ye're oot.  
 (Old Aberdeen)

## GROUP XX.

This group contains the words *over*, *dover*, and is not very regular in the formation of the length of the rhymes.

Eendy, beendy,  
 Bambor, eendy,  
 Over, dover, dick.  
 (Grantown)

Endy, bendy,  
 Bamber, endy,  
 Over, dover, dock.  
 (Glenrinnos)

Zinty, tinty, tethery, bethery,  
 Bamfaleerie, over, dover,  
 Dicker, dock, done.  
 (Nairn)

Zinty, tinty, heathery, meathery,  
 Banks, four, literis,  
 Over, dover, dick.  
 (Fort Augustus)

Iseenty, teenty, hethery, bethery,  
 Bamf, alitre, over, dover,  
 Dick, don, twenty-one,  
 One, two, three.  
 (Dyke)

Sainty, tainty, heathery, bethery,  
 Bank, fou, littery,  
 Over, dover, dicky,  
 Nell, pan, tan, toosh.  
 (Sutherlandshire)

## GROUP XXI.

This group consists of one line made up of a string of words without any meaning or connection.

John, rod, tod, rascal.  
 (Banff)

Ink, pink, penny, stink. | Horse, cart, thimble.  
 (Fraserburgh) | (Grantown)

## GROUP XXII.

Two lines form the counting-out in this group. The lines commonly rhyme. It may be divided into two sub-groups, thus :—

(a) In which the lines rhyme for the most part.

(b) In which the last line is *Stan ye oot by*, *Stan ye oot ower*, or some such phrase to rhyme with the word used in the former line.

(a)

Chaps to count the queen's name,  
 Hallelujah, amen.  
 (Cullen)

First to count at Hullee, one, two, three,  
Out goes the bonnie lassie o' Dundee.

(Nairn)

Apple Davie, currant Tam,  
Sugar rollie, black man.

(Nairn)

Salt herrin, penny the pun,  
Eat them all, and they'll soon be done.

(Nairn)

Two an twos a tippeny loaf,  
An two and two's it.

(Macduff)

Cups, plates, china, bowls,  
Cups, plates, china, bowls.

(Perth)

(b)

Eekery, peekery, jeekery, iye,  
Stan ye oot by.

(Glenrinnas)

Bake a puddin, bake a pie,  
Stan ye oot by.

(Cushnie)

Hoky, poky, penny pie,  
Stan ye oot by.

(Meiklefolla)

Variant of last line—  
An two an two's out.

(Edinburgh)

Rob Law's lum reeks  
Roon about the chimney-cheeks.

(Banff)

Eerinniges, oranges, two for a penny,  
A'm a good scholar for coontin so many.

(Fraserburgh)

Zan, pan, musky, dan,  
Zan, pan, toosh.

(Renton, Dumbartonshire)

Ane, twa, three, fower,  
Staan ye oot ower.

(Tyrie)

One, two, three, four,  
Tack a mell an ding 'im our.

(Fraserburgh)

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven,  
A' that fisher dodds widna win t' haven.

(Fraserburgh)

One, two, sky blue,  
All out but you.

(Cullen)

## GROUP XXIII.

This group is made up of all the other rhymes not included in the other groups, and are of various lengths.

Gipsy, gi, a-gibber, a-hay,  
Hory, pory, dory,  
Hoiky, poiky, soiky, moiky,  
I enego, wilomi, dory.

(Orkney)

Ra, ra,  
Chuckeree, chuckeree,  
Ony, pony,  
Ningy, ningy, na,  
Addy, caddy, westee,  
Anty, poo,  
Chutipan, chutipan,  
China, chu.

(Fraserburgh)

One, two, three,  
Granny caught a flee,  
Flee died,  
Granny cried,  
Out goes she.

(Granton)

As I was walking by a lake,  
I met a little rattlesnake,  
I gave it so much jellycake,  
That it made its little belly ache,  
One, two, three,  
Out goes she.

(Grantown)

Eentil, teentil, eddy, galong,  
Mortal, portal, peel, a gun,  
France oot, France in,  
Saw ye the laird o' Easel-peasel  
Jumpin' ower Jeroozlum steeple,  
Eery, ory, you are oot.

(Dundee)

Eena, deena, dina, dust,  
Catla, wecla, wila, wust,  
Spit, spot, must be done,  
Twidlam, twadlam, twenty-one,  
O-U-T spells out,  
With a rotten, totten, dirty dish-clout.  
(Fetteresso)

Eendy, beendy, bamba, roe,  
Caught a chicken to the toe,  
To the east, to the west,  
To the old crow's nest,  
Hopping in the garden,  
Swimming in the sea,  
If you want a pretty girl,  
Please take me.

(Dysart, Fifeshire)

I saw a doo flee ower the dam,  
Wi' silver wings, and early man;  
She looked east, she looked west,  
She stood upon a brink o' san',  
To see the cocks o' Cumberlan.  
I choose you oot,  
For a bonny penny poot.

( ? )

I saw a doo flee our the dam,  
Wi' silver wings an golden ban;  
She leukit east, she leukit west,  
She leukit fahr t' light on best;  
She lichtit on a bank o' san',  
T' see the cocks o' Cumberlan';  
Fite puddin, black trout,  
Ye're oot.

(Fraserburgh)

Eenty, teenty, tippenny Ann,  
I saw a doo flee ower the dam,  
With silver wings and early wan,  
It lookit east, it lookit west,  
It lookit where it loved best,  
It lichtit on a brink o' sand,  
To spy the cocks o' Cumberland,  
I choose you out for a bonny dish clout.  
(Sandhaven)

An apple, an orange,  
A kirk or a college,  
A string o' laamar beads,  
A bunch o' blue ribbons,  
A happeny bap, peat, sod,  
Dyvyot, or clod.

(Foveran)

One day I went a-fishing,  
And I caught a little trout,  
And I said, " You little beggar,  
Does your mother know you're out ?"  
(Grantown)

When I was young, and had no sense,  
I bought a fiddle for eighteen pence,  
And all the tunes that it could play  
Was " O'er the hills and far away."  
(Cullen)

Zaina, daina, dina, disk,  
Kittla, faila, fila, fisk,  
Each, peach, must be done,  
Tweedlum, twadlum, twenty-one.  
( ? )

Issing, issing, issory,  
Where will this poor boy go?  
Go east, go west,  
Go to the back o' the crow's nest.  
(Old Aberdeen)

I had a dog, its name was Buff,  
I sent it for a box o' snuff,  
It broke the box, and skelt the snuff,  
And that was a' my pennyworth.  
(Old Aberdeen)

Yokie, pokie, yankie, fun,  
How do you like your potatoes done?  
First in brandy, then in rum,  
That's how I like my potatoes done.  
(Portsoy)

As I went out to sell my eggs,  
I met a man wi' painted legs,  
Painted legs and tipped toes,  
That's the way the ladies goes.

(Grantown)

What's for supper ?  
Pease brose and butter.  
Who'll say the grace ?  
I'll say the grace.  
Colour viti, colour voti,  
Colour taste, taste, taste.

(Grantown)

I doot, I doot, my fire's out,  
And my little dog's not at home ;  
I'll saddle my cat, I'll bridle my cat,  
And bring my little dog home ;  
A hapenny pudding, a hapenny pie,  
Stand ye there out by.

(Moffat)

Rub, a bub, bub,  
Three men in a tub,  
A butcher, a baker,  
A candy-stick maker.

(Grantown)

A-rub, a-dub-dub,  
Three men in a tub,  
A butcher, a baker,  
A candlestick maker.

(Grantown)

There was a crookit man  
And he walked a crookit mile,  
He found a crookit saxpence  
Upon a crookit style,  
He bocht a crookit cat,  
And caught a crookit moose,  
And they all lived together  
In a little crookit hoose.

(Old Aberdeen)

I think, I think,  
I fin a stink,  
It's comin from y-o-u.

On whom "u" fell was beaten with bonnets till he cried "Peas."

In the following formula the syllable *ca* must be added to the end of each word.

I wad gee a' my livin'  
That my wife were as fite an as fair  
As the swans that flee o'er the mill-dam.

(Portsoy)

One, two, three, four, five,  
Catch a fishie while alive ;  
Why did you let it go ?  
Because it bit my finger so.

( ? )

One, two, three, four, five,  
Can you catch a fish alive ?  
Why did you let it go ?  
Because it bit my finger, O.

( ? )

As I geed up the brandy hill,  
I met my father—he geed wull,  
He hid jewels, he hid rings,  
He'd a cat wi' ten tails,  
He'd a ship wi' saiven sails,  
He'd a hammer, dreeve nails,  
Up Jack, doon Tam,  
Blaw the bellows, aul' man.

(Fraserburgh)

As I gaed up the brandy hill,  
I met my father ; he geed will.  
He'd jewels, he'd rings,  
He'd mony fine things,  
He'd a cat wi' ten tails,  
He'd a ship wi' saiven sails.  
Up Jack, down Tom,  
Blow the bellows, old man.  
Old man had a coat,  
He rowed aboot, t' the ferry-boat ;  
The ferry-boat's our dear,  
Ten poun' i' the year.  
I've a cherry, I've a chest,  
I've a bonny blue vest,  
I've a dog amo' the corn,  
Blawin' Willie Buck's horn ;  
Willie Buck hiz a coo,  
Black an fite aboot the moo,  
It jumpit our the Brig o' Muck,  
An ran awa fae Willie Buck.

(Banff)







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