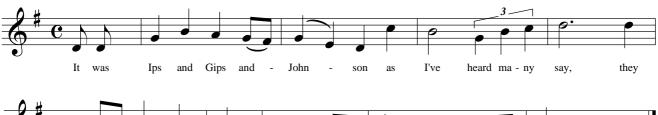
66c Three Jolly Butchers - Mr Leatherday





It was Ips and Jips and Johnson as I've heard many say, they had five thousand guineas all on a market day.

As they rode over Northumberland as hard as they could ride,
'O hark, O hark,' says Johnson, 'I hear a woman cry.'

Then Johnson being a valiant man, a man of courage bold, he ranged the woods all over til this woman he did behold.

4
'How came you here?' said Johnson, 'How came you here,
I pray?'
I am come to relieve you if you will not me betray.'

5
'There has been ten swaggering blades have hand and foot, me bound, and stripped me stark naked with my hair pinned to the ground.'

Then Johnson being a valiant man, a man of courage bold, he took his coat from off his back to keep her from the cold.

7 As they rode over Northumberland as hard as they could ride she put her fingers in her ears and gave a dismal cry.

8
Then up starts ten swaggering blades with weapons in their hands; and riding up to Johnson they bid him for to stand.

It's, 'I'll not stand,' says Gibson, then, 'No indeed not I.'
'No I'll not stand,' says Ipson, 'I'll sooner live than die!'

'Then I will stand,' says Johnson, 'I'll stand then while I can. I never yet was daunted nor afraid of any man'

Then Johnson drew his glittering sword with all his might and main, so well he laid upon them till eight of them were slain.

As he was fighting the other two this woman he didn't mind; she took the knife all from his side, and ripped him up behind.

'Now I must fall,' says Johnson, 'must fall unto the ground, for relieving this wicked woman; she gave me my death

'O base woman, O base woman, what hast thou done? thou hast killed the finest butcher that ever the sun shone on.'

This happened on a market day as people were riding by; to see this cruel murder, they gave a hue and cry.

So now this woman's taken and bound in fetters strong, for killing the finest butcher that ever the sun shone on.