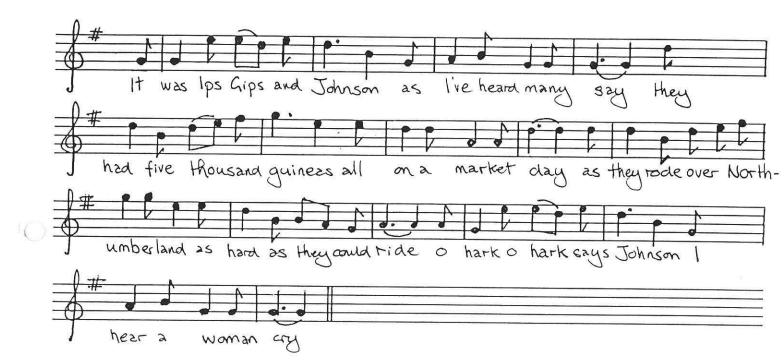
## THE THREE BUTCHERS

Vaughan Williams notes for rest of words see book of Ballad sheets.

It was Ips Gips and Johnson
As I have 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 said Johnson
I hear a woman cry

## The Three Butchers



## BROADSIDE FROM VAUGHAN WILLIAMS COLLECTION

## THE THREE BUTCHERS

It was Ips, Gips and Johnson as I have 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's cry

Then Johnson being a valiant man a man of courage bold He rang'd the woods all over till this woman he did behold How came you here said Johnson how came you here I pray I am come here to relieve you if you will not me betray

There has been ten swaggering blades has 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

As they rode over Northumberland as hard as they could ride She put her fingers in her ears and gave a dismal cry 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 Gibson I'll sooner live than die Then I will stand says Johnson I'll stand 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 was slain

As he was fighting the other two this woman he didn't mind

She took the knife all from his side and ripp'd him up

behind

Now I must fall says Johnson I must fall unto the ground
For relieving this wicked woman she gave me my death wound
O base woman O base woman, 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 the woman's taken and bound in fetters strong For killing the finest butcher that ever the sun shone on

\*Misprint in line of broadside