

The Trowman's Fall

The seventh day of February from Bristol we sail'd out,
Our Trow was richly loaded and bound for Worcester port;
At half-past six that very night it was a dismal sound,
Our gallant ship struck on the sand and 4 of her crew were drown'd.

Two swam on boards and planks their precious lives to save,
The other four of the crew they had a watery grave;
Two of them was soon pick'd up as you shall understand,
But one of them was robb'd and stripp'd and drifted on the land.

The other left upon the rock near by the channel side,
And there two old watchmen his corpse by chance was spied.
As he lay on the mound they robb'd him of his watch and all that they could find;
Then they tied a rope all round him and tow'd him to the land.

And there they dragg'd him up the mud as you shall understand,
There was an honest tradesman as he was standing by,
"O are you going to leave him on this open place,"
"I'd have you cover him over or carry him to some safer place."

They took him to a stable that was there standing by.
O then this honest tradesman unto them thus did say,
"O have you search'd his pockets come tell to me I pray"
O no they then made answer "Then he [-] to them did say,

"O now I charge you search him and that immediately,
O then they search'd him right and left and still they both did say,
That all they found about him was a pencil and a key.

The Answer

On Oldbury shore near Severn-side,
Where honest people us'd to abide,
But now they have got such a knack,
They'll rob the dead and strip the wreck.

There is two watchmen in that place,
Have on themselves brought disgrace,
And if their names you would wish to know,
The one is Higgler the other a Jew.

He is called a Jew (nick-name) by folks,
Because he carried a pack and box;
But now his pack is gone to [],
They titled him young watchmen Jack.

As it fell out all on one day,
A crowd of people he pass'd by,
And all the folks on him did look,
Pray young man tell me what's a clock.

That's all I wanted said he,
A lawyer's letter I'll send for thee,
I'll cap a writ upon thy back,
I'll have the law cried watchman Jack.