

In former times, both plain and neat, They'd go to church on Sunday, And then to harrow, plough, or sow, They'd go upon a Monday; But now, instead of the plough-tail, O'er hedges they are jumping, And instead of sowing of their corn, Their delight is in fox-hunting.

The good old dames, God bless their names, Were seldom in a passion, But strove to keep a right good house, And never thought on fashion; With fine brown beer their hearts to cheer, But now they must drink swipes, sir, It's enough to make a strong man weak, And give him the dry gripes, sir.

The farmers' daughters us'd to work All at the spinning wheel, sir, But now such furniture as that It thought quite ungenteel, sir, Their fingers they're afraid to spoil With any kind of sport, sir, Sooner than handle a mop or broom, They'd handle a piano-forte, sir

Their dress was always plain and warm, When in their holyday clothes, sir, Besides, they has such handsome cheeks, As red as any rose, sir, But now they're frill'd and furbelow'd, Just like a dancing monkey, Their bonnets and their great black veils Would almost fright a donkey. When wheat it was a guinea a strike, The farmers bore the sway, sir, Now with their landlords they will ride, Upon each hunting day, sir, Besides, their daughters they must join The ladies at the ball, sir, The landlord say, we'll double the rents And then their pride must fall, sir.

I hope no one will think amiss, At what has here been penn'd, sir, But let's hope that these hard times May speedily amend, sir, It's all through such confounded pride, Has brought them to reflection, It makes poor servants' wages low, And keeps them in subjection.