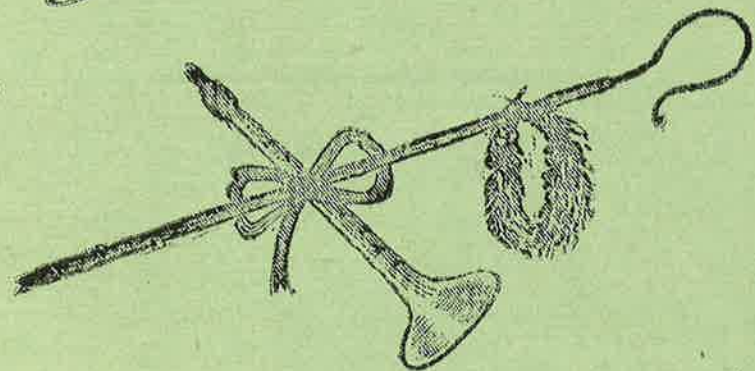


# Old English Dances.



Edited by FRANK KIDSON.

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# OLD ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCES

GATHERED FROM SCARCE PRINTED COLLECTIONS  
AND FROM MANUSCRIPTS

WITH ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES AND A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE MUSIC

*Collected and Edited*  
*by*  
**FRANK KIDSON**



*celtic music*

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## PREFACE.

THIS collection of Old English Country Dances is a modest attempt to bring before the public of to-day some few simple dance tunes which amused former generations. The musician must not judge the tunes from a modern standpoint, but probably he will find amongst them many which will repay his attention. To a musical antiquary little need be said, for he will know that old English dance music is especially interesting in many ways, one of which is the light it throws upon the evolution of numbers of our popular airs; and in this volume the editor has attempted to trace the growth of the tune, "The Keel Row," from an earlier source than has been before set forth. The dances having Yorkshire titles will, perhaps, interest antiquaries of that county. The collection consists not of the most popular, but of the least known, country dances having merit, and is selected to show the variety of styles in vogue from the middle of the 17th to the beginning of the 19th century. Many of the dances are from MSS. in the editor's possession, and in some instances have never before been printed, but may have been noted down in MS. from some

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## OLD ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCES.

### AY ME, OR THE SYMPHONY.

Musical notation for 'AY ME, OR THE SYMPHONY.' consisting of four staves of music in treble clef, 2/4 time signature. The melody is written on the first staff, and the accompaniment is written on the second, third, and fourth staves.

### IF ALL THE WORLD WERE PAPER.

Musical notation for 'IF ALL THE WORLD WERE PAPER.' consisting of two staves of music in treble clef, 6/8 time signature. The melody is written on the first staff, and the accompaniment is written on the second staff.

### ONCE I LOVED A MAIDEN FAIR.

Musical notation for 'ONCE I LOVED A MAIDEN FAIR.' consisting of two staves of music in treble clef, 2/4 time signature. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody is written on the first staff, and the accompaniment is written on the second staff.

NOTES UPON THE PRECEDING AIRS.

AY ME, OR THE SYMPHONY, Page 1.—This very beautiful air deserves to be better known; Chappell is silent about it. It is evidently the tune to some plaintive ditty of the 17th century, which I have not been able to meet with. It appears in many editions of the *Dancing Master*; in the first, 1651; in the second, 1652; and the third to the eighth, 1690.

IF ALL THE WORLD WERE PAPER, Page 1.—Many Nursery Rhymes are, as most people are aware, extremely old, both in respect to the words and to the air, and though fragments of the rhymes occur frequently in early MSS., and in old printed books, yet it is seldom the tunes ever got into print. There are, however, several such airs in Playford's *Dancing Master*, and this is one of them. It appears in the first edition, 1651, and in other editions, including the eighth, 1690. It is arranged as a round dance for eight persons. The words of the rhyme are well known, and run thus—

“If all the world were paper,  
And all the sea were ink?  
And all the trees were bread and cheese,  
What should we do for drink?”

There is an Irish tune in Crosby's *Irish Musical Repository*, and in Smith's *Irish Minstrel*, named “If the sea were ink,” but it is quite different to the one here printed.

ONCE I LOVED A MAIDEN FAIR, Page 1.—I give this air chiefly to show the difference which exists between it in the original form, and the air which Chappell has made so very popular. I do not claim for it that it is any better, nor even

*BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE MUSIC.*

THE following Books of English Country Dances are either in the editor's possession, or have come under his observation. The list could be greatly added to, and many books of airs are here omitted which, although they contain dance music are not strictly collections of Country Dances. The dates are given where known, but some latitude must be allowed where the editor has had to quote the date from internal evidence.

**Playford, John.**—The first collection of Country Dances ever issued in England was printed for John Playford, in the middle of the 17th century, and was continued by him and his sons through seventeen editions for nearly eighty years.

1651, *First Edition*, entitled "The English Dancing Master, or plaine and easie rules for the dancing of country dances, with the tune to each dance, 1651." Contains 104 tunes. Oblong 4to.

1652, *Second Edition*. "The Dancing Master . . . with the tune to each dance . . . 1652." Oblong 12mo.

1657 and 1665, *Third Edition*. These two volumes are classed as one edition.

1670, *Fourth*; 1675, *Fifth*; 1680, *Sixth*.

1686, *Seventh*, with two "additional sheets."

1690, *Eighth*; 1695, *Ninth*, with a second part dated 1696.

1698, *Tenth*, with a second edition of the second part, dated 1698.

1701, *Eleventh*; 1703, *Twelfth*; 1706, *Thirteenth*; 1711, *Fourteenth*; 1713, *Fifteenth*.

1716, *Sixteenth*, with a second volume dated 1718.

1721, *Seventeenth*, with a second and a third volume dated 1728. All after the first being Oblong 12mo.



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7.
- Wilson**, 1816—"Companion to the Ball Room, a Collection of Country Dances, Reels, etc., edited by Thomas Wilson."
- Hale**, *circa* 1816—"Hale's Selection of Popular Waltzes and Dances. . . Cheltenham. Book 1." Oblong 4to.
- Monro**, 1817—"For the year 1817, Monro's Annual Set of Country Dances." Oblong 8vo.  
1820 and 1821—Ditto.  
1834—Ditto.
- Draper**, 1818—"Draper's Collection of Favourite Waltzes for the year 1818. Printed by G. Shade." Folio.
- Major**, 1820—"Major's Annual Collection of Twenty-four of the most fashionable Country Dances . . . 182c." Oblong 8vo.
- Parry**, *circa* 1820—"Parry's Original Country Dances, for the violin. . . ." Folio, 2 pp.

- 1825—"Analysis of the London Ball Room." Published by Tegg. 8vo
- Townsend**, *circa* 1830—"Twenty-four Favourite Country Dances, for the German flute. J. Townsend, Manchester." Oblong 8vo.
- Clementi**, 1836—"Clementi & Co.'s Dances, Waltzes, and Quadrilles, for the year 1836." Oblong 8vo.

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English Dance collections were issued in Dublin, in folio sheets. *Some few are as follows:—*

- "E. Lee's Collection of Country Dances for the present year." (*Circa* 1800.)
- "Mrs. Parker's much-admired Selections of Strathspeys and Reels, published by Hime." (*Circa* 1800.)
- "Hime's collection of Country Dances, No. 1 to 10." (No. 6 is "for 1810.")
- Dance Sheets issued by F. Rhames and his successor, P. Alday. (*Circa* 1790—1800).

**Finis.**