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Dolly, the Dancing Dairy Maid

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DOLLY, THE DANCING DAIRY MAID.

I sing of Dolly, the dairy maid—
To whom the squire has often said
Such flattering things of every kind,
So with ambition fill'd her mind.
One day, along with Giles, her beau,
She saw him in a race-ground show ;
And up he came, and stood close by,
And at her smiled and wink'd his eye.
As in the show a girl from France
So very cleverly did dance—

The squire applauded rapturously,
And jealous Doll wished she were she.

Rum di dum di diddle de dee,
Rum di dum di diddle de da,
Rum di dum di diddle de dee,
Tooral looral liddle de da.

Returning home, which was some miles,
She hardly spoke a word to Giles,
But walk'd as if in half a trance,
And wish'd and wish'd that she could dance ;
At home, on looking in the glass,
She saw she was a handsome lass—
Then at her feet she gave a glance,
And said, I wish the two could dance.
The squire admir'd that parlez-vous,
Yet I'm much prettier of the two—
And if I hopp'd as well as she,
I think as this, he'd marry me.

Rum di dum di, &c.

With night-gown on she knelt to pray,
But quite forgot her usual say,
And cried, "Oh, fairies, do advance,
And teach a dairy maid to dance !"
Scarce spoke—some elfin piceaninnies
Came dancing in like fantoccinies.
They form'd a ring, and Doll did tiddle,
Until they got her in the middle—
Then round and round they danced elate,
Till Doll began to imitate,
And which she did so cleverly,
She wish'd the squire were there to see.

Rum di dum di, &c.

The fairies fled away with night,
Still Dolly danced with all her might,
Which put the rats all in a fright,
And must have been a curious sight.
At milking time abroad she tripp'd,
And all the way she hopp'd and skipp'd ;
Then to the cows did daily shoe it,
And tried to milk, but could not do it—
Till Giles in wonder left his plough,
And said, "Here, lass, I'll milk thy cow,
For surely ye've been bitten now,
By some mad dancing bow wow wow !"

Rum di dum di, &c.

Against the pail she bump'd her head,
As Giles did lift it on, and said—
"I say, my lad, ye have no chance,
For see ye how I've learnt to dance."
Then off she tripp'd—her shaking churn'd
The milk, until to butter turned ;
Just then she saw approach the squire,
And thinking now he would admire,
Exclaimed—"Though I don't come from France,
Squire, you see as I can dance ;"
But, 'stead of his admiring Dolly,
He went off laughing at her folly.

Rum di dum di, &c.

She was so vex'd at this, she cried,
And now to stop her dancing tried ;
But on she jump'd against her will,
And drew the folks from house and mill.
The doctor making up a pill,
The lawyer writing down a will,
The parson, too, in dishabille,
Who did their best to keep her still !
But, no—as soon as e'er they tried,
They seem'd as if electrified ;
For all who touch'd her hands or clothes,
Like her began to point their toes.

Rum di dum di, &c.

The country folks were all alarmed,
They thought the dairy maid was charm'd,
And wouldn't even near her stop,
To see how long she'd keep it up.
From morn till night, from night till morn,
She danced about the place forlorn ;
Oft crying out, "Oh, lud, my corn !"
And wishing she had ne'er been born !
She danc'd till all her shoes were gone—
She danc'd till she was skin and bone—
She danc'd untill she dead did seem,
Then woke, and found it but a dream.

Rum di dum di, &c.

When Dolly found it was the fairies
Had led her through all these vagaries—
And after having such a prance,
No longer wish'd to learn to dance.
Her ruin seeing it might be,
Hereafter taking warning she
Ne'er thought of squire's coquetting smiles,
But only lov'd the cows and Giles.
It must be known to all who've read,
Ambition many has misled—
Which is the moral of all I've said
Of Dolly, the dancing dairy maid.

Rum di dum di, &c.