

Introduction

Specimens of Songs and parts of Songs,
(from memory) sung about the streets within my recollection,
and without molestation.

Every one of the songs mentioned might be
bought of the Thane who sold ballads in the streets against
the walls, each song for a halfpenny.

The Bishop of London in 1750 in his letter to the
Clergy and People of London and Westminster on the Late Canting
Songs. The infamous and obscene songs and ballads that are freely
sung in our public streets, to the great uneasiness of all modest
virtuous persons who are passing by; to the great corruption and
depravation of our servants and children, and to the total
discouragement of virtue among the common people in general.

Lady Mary. May - 1750 - p. 194.

The songs that are defective were all known to me
when I was an apprentice boy - but forgotten past recollection.
Those made perfect have been so made from the recollection
of old fellows whom I have known.

Songs.

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The following songs and specimens of songs, are all of them from, ballads, bawled ~~and~~ ^{being} about the streets, and ~~and~~ ^{being} against the walls. It will seem incredible that such songs should be allowed but it was so. There is not one of them that I have not myself heard sung in the streets, as well as at their Clubs, every one of them ~~was~~ ^{were} recollected by Mr. Higin, and ^{most of them by} Mr. Hayward, and some lines or passages have been added by ~~them~~ ^{these persons}. It must not be supposed that they were sung only in the places which I have mentioned, they were sung in all parts of the town.

There were probably a hundred ballad singers then, for our use. The ~~same~~ cause of their being discontinued to be sung was various among these, a more active Police. The Society of Association against republicans and levelers also contributed to this end, John Theines and his associates, together with the magistrates, extinguished them. The association printed a large number of what they called Patriotic Loyal songs, and gave them to the ballad singers; if any one was found singing any ~~bad~~ loyal song, he or she was carried before a magistrate who administered ^{and his order} him as he or she, and they were then told they might have loyal songs for nothing, and that they would not be molested while singing them. Thus the bawdy songs; and those in praise of thieving, ^{and getting drunk.} were pushed out of existence. These loyal songs were succeeded by Diluvian Tea Songs, ^{and} ~~and~~ the old blackguard songs were in a few years unknown to the youths

* Mr. Higin is an Cooper & Golden St. as a song-writer.
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of the rising generation, ^{then} the taste for them subsided
 called singers must be
 I have no doubts at all that if left at liberty ~~to do as~~
~~they pleased~~ by the police, ^{to sing these songs that} ~~the~~ the people in the streets would
 not permit the singing of such songs as ^{them} ~~these~~ ^{such} songs as ^{over} ~~these~~ ^{35 years}
 ago ^{produced} ~~approval~~ ^{and} ~~the~~ ^{and} ~~singers~~ ^{the} ~~to be~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ⁱⁿ ~~mind~~
~~not~~ ^{with} ~~approval~~ ^{and} ~~the~~ ^{and} ~~singers~~ ^{with} ~~with~~ ^{encouragement}

Not one of these songs even the most infamous was at
 all dignified to, since I saw ~~several~~ ~~of~~ ~~them~~ ~~and~~ ~~some~~ ~~of~~ ~~them~~ ~~used~~
 to sleep in the markets, to hear them sung, and used to purchase
 them. This was the case even with Mary's Mother
 Another cause of their ^{dissipation} ~~disapproval~~ was the proceedings of the
 Society for the suppression of Vice.