

THE FALSE FOX AND THE GOOSE

It fell ageyns one moone-light nyght
The fox yede to with all his myghte,
With-uten cole or candlelight,
Whan that he cam unto the toowne,.

*With how fox, how; with hey fox, hey!
Bere ye no more our gese aweye!
'Aye, pax vobiscum' quod the fox,
'For I am comyn to toowne'*

When he cam all in the yarde,
So soore the geys they were a-ferde;
'O I shall tacked of you some berde,
Ere that I go from the toowne!'

Refrain

Than he cam all in the croofte,
Where he stalkyd wundirfull soofte;
'For here haue I be frayed full oofte,
Whan that I haue come to toowne.'

Refrain

He hemte a goose all be the heye,
Faste, the goos began to creye,
Oowte yede men as they myght
heye,
Seyde, 'Fals fox, ley it doowne!'

Refrain

'Nay,' he said, 'soo mot I the!
Sche shall go unto the wode with
me;
Sche and I wnter a tre,
Emange the beryis so broowne.

Refrain

"I haue a wyf, and sche lyeth seke;
Many smale whelppis sche haue to
eke,
Many bonys they must pike,
Will they ley a-downe.'

Refrain

It happened one moonlit night,
Fox slipped out as quick as he could,
With neither coals nor candle light,
The night he came into town

*With how fox, how; with hey fox, hey!
Bear no more our geese away!
"Peace be with you" says the fox,
For I am coming to town.*

When he arrived at the yard,
The geese were sorely frightened,
"I shall take one of your birds,
Before I leave town!"

Then he arrived at the cottage,
And stalked in so softly,
"For I have always been cautious
here,
When I have come to town."

He corned a goose by the haystack,
Cornered, the goose began to honk,,
Men rushed out as quick as they
could,
Saying, "Sly Fox, put it down!"

"No! I disagree with you,
She shall go into the woods with me;
She and I under a tree,
Among the berries to brown."

"I have a wife who lies sick,
"She has many cubs to share her
food,
Many a bone they'll have to gnaw,
While they are hiding in my den,"

