

Cornish Ketchun

Hengan p76

Wy bless ee you naws oll a - bowt et, A - vore I da tell ee a werd, Tez a
 booy an a maed, an a cun - tree glaed A wi - del yoom of - tun eard, Ow tha
 booy loast ez art ta tha maed Well tha ow obm ez al - ways tha saem Tez
 weer I met Nil - lee, thaat I wants ta tell ee She woz ten - den tha but - tur an craym En a
 Cor - nish ket - chun weth tha log fyr glaw oan tha wall An tha
 ni ke tee naak a tha oll gran - fer cloak Tha bloo an wite che - nee an oll Tha
 flooer clen saan - dud, tha taa - bel fer soa - pur woz laed Er
 maw - thur sayd stay well wot cud I say, Soa I sat be - side Jaan's lid - del maed

Interestingly, many Dialect speakers render 'Cornish' as 'Cornesh' in this context. In Cornish Dialect as 'e' and 'i' vowel sounds are frequently interchanged, a phenomenon noted in Chaucerian English.

A parlour song which has now entered popular use and is one of Ernie Keast's party pieces. Dialect cuisine is well represented here with squab pie, butter and cream. Perhaps surprisingly, there is no mention of the ubiquitous pasty!

Wy bless ee you naws oll abowt et,
Avor I da tell ee a werd,
Tez a booy an a maed, an a cuntree glaed
A widel yoom oftun erd,
Ow tha booy loast ez art ta tha maed –
Well tha ow obm ez always tha saem:
Tez weer I met Nillee, thaat I wants ta tell ee
She woz tenden tha buttur an craym.

En a Cornish ketchun weth tha log fyr glaw oan tha wall
An tha nicketee naak a tha oll granfer cloak
Tha bloo an wite chenee an oll.
Tha flooer clen saandud, tha taabel fer soapur woz laed.
Er mawthur sayd stay well wot cud I say,
Soa I sat beside Jaan's liddel maed.

Oal Jaan fermd abowt foortee aacurs,
An I woz ez bettur moast man;
Soa twas aesee fer me, to be see-en ov she,
An thas ow tha coorten begaan.
Oan Easter Day jus a ear aaftur,
Us stanked of ta church prinklee dresst.
I gevde er tha reng an oll that soort a theng,
An tha passun chap ee ded tha rest.

Weev a Cornish ketchun, weth tha loag fyr glaw oan tha wall:
An tha nicketee naak a tha oll granfer cloak
Tha bloo an wite chenee an oll.
Theers tha skawb py staymen, tha taabel fer two naetlee laed;
A cheer fer me an anoathur fer she,
Wot woz wawns fermer Jaan's liddel maed.

I've seen chaps look wisht az a winnard
Wot you cawl scerd owt ov theer life;
Praps stervd az a baabee er poor livd maebee,
But tez moas tyms a troublesum wife:
Ov coors oll tha maeds aynt like me maed,
Wot a jooy ov tha werld et wud be,
Ef sich maeds cud be fown, to av wawn eech oll rown,
An oll be az appee az we.

En a Cornish ketchun weth tha log fyr glaw oan tha wall
An tha nicketee naak a tha oll granfer cloak
Tha bloo an wite chenee an oll:
Weev a braav fyr burnen, tha taabel fer dree es laed
Thas Nillee an me an tha oathur you see
Ez ar awn deer liddel maed.

Dialect substitutions: widel for story, yoom for you've, granfer for grandfather,
chenee for china, us for we, stankd for marched, passun for parson, dree for three