THE BAL

OR

'TIS A BRÀ KEENLY LODE:

A DESCRIPTIVE

Cornish Ballad

D. Williams, addr. 114, St. John St. London

WRITTEN AND ARRANGED,

&

Dedicated to

ONE AND ALL

by

William Bentinck Forfar

Ent. Sta. Hall.

Price 2/6.

PUBLISHED FOR THE AUTHOR BY J. WILLIAMS, 123, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON.

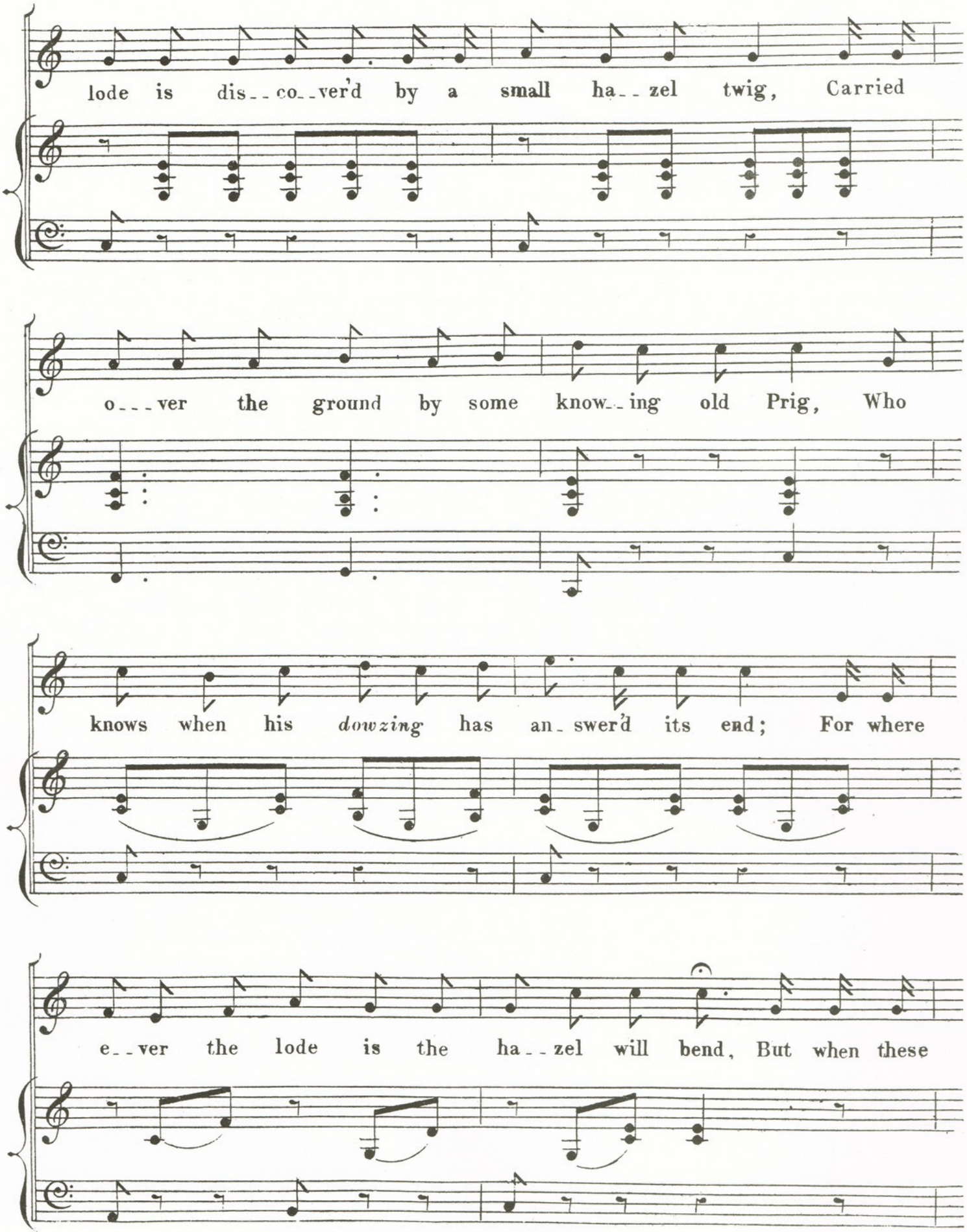
*** Most of the Provincialisms which occur in this Song are *pure* Cornish words, preserved from the ancient language originally spoken in this county, and not corruptions of the English, as the Provincialisms of many of the other counties are. In the pronunciation of the English words, a marked and striking difference exists in the eastern and western parts of Cornwall; and a difference of expression and intonation may even be observed, in some instances between labourers residing in adjoining parishes. The ancient Cornish language having been preserved and spoken in the western part of this County longer than in any other part, and that being the principal locality of "*Bra' Keenly Bâls*," the mode of pronunciation used in the western district is adopted in this Song.

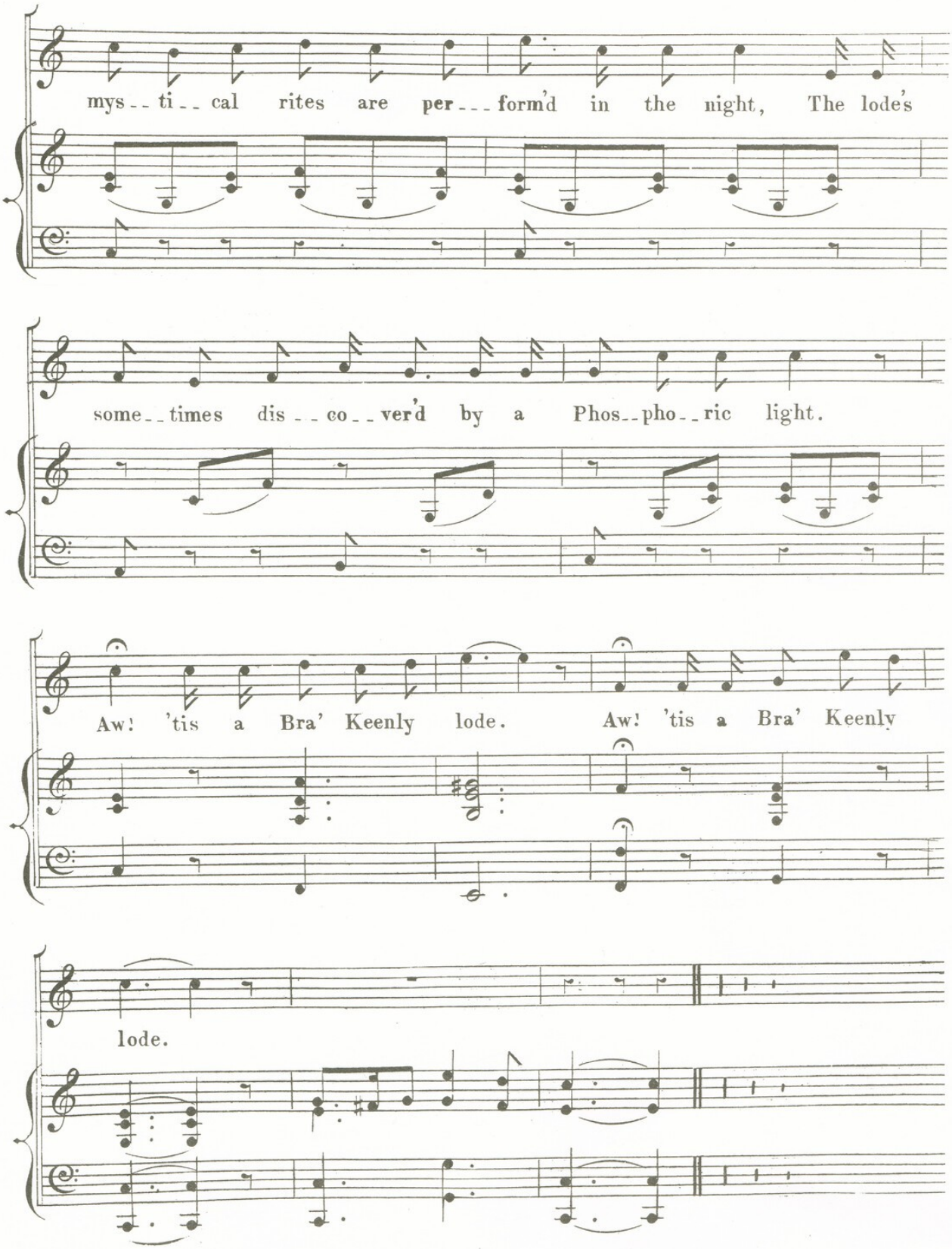
THE BAL.

Andante.

If you'll lis-ten to me for a moment you shall Hear

all a-bout try-ing and work-ing a Bâl; How the


lode is dis__co__ver'd by a small ha__zel twig, Carried
o___ver the ground by some know__ing old Prig, Who
knows when his *dowzing* has an_swer'd its end; For where
e__ver the lode is the ha__zel will bend, But when these



THIS WORK TRANSFER'D FROM PEWTER ON STONE &
PRINTED BY D. WILLIAMS, LITHOGRAPHER, 110, ST JOHN STREET SMITHFIELD

THE BÂL[1]

OR,

'TES A BRA'[2] KEENLY[3] LODE[4]!

1 If you'll listen to me for a moment, you shall
Hear all about trying and working a Bâl;
How the Lode is discovered by a small hazel twig,
Carried over the ground by some knowing old prig,
Who knows when his *Dowzing*[5] has answered its end,
For wherever the Lode is the hazel will bend;
But when these mystical rites are perform'd in the night,
The Lode's sometimes discovered by a *Phosphoric Light*.[6]
Aw! 'tes a Bra' Keenly Lode, &c.

2 When the knowing old Dowzer this discovery's made,
He marks out the spot and then calls his comráde,
Saying, "Hallo! Cozen[7] Jan, do'ee cum 'long wi' me,
'Tes the keenliest gozan[8] thee evar de'st see;
Wi' my pick an' my gad I've ben worken oal[9] night,
An' a g'eat piece o' mundic es jest heav'd in sight"
"Aw! ef that es the ca-ase, thun," says Jan, "I'll be bound
Weth a few howàrs' worken, the lo-ad 'll be found"
Aw! 'tes a Bra' Keenly Lode, &c.

3 When they came to the Lode, then the water came in,
And they couldn't tell whether 'twas copper or tin.
"Cum," says Jan, "lev es go to the kiddle-e-wink,[10]
An' set down, touch our pipes,[11] and ha'[12] sumthen to drink,
An' to-morraw we'll ca-al[13] upon Cap'n Polgla-aze,
An' ax[14] hes advice, when we've laid footh[15] our ca-ase.
He do knaw some rich chaps up to Lunnun, I 'm tould,
So he can promise our tin in exchange for their gould."
Aw! 'tes a Bra' Keenly Lode, &c.

4 Now Captain Polglaze was a Purser, well known,
Who quickly, by mining, a rich man had grown:
So he sampled the ore which the two men brought him;
And advised them, by all means, to put up a *whim*,[16]
And to fork out the water with a *pump* and a *wheel*,[17]
While he to his friends would make instant appeal;
And to London he'd go with a sample of ore:—
"Loar!" says Jan, "I shud like to go weth 'ee, plaise shuar."
Aw! 'tes a Bra' Keenly Lode, &c.

5 They went up to Bristol by a steamer from Hayle,
And proceeded from Bristol to London by rail,
And, having finished their business without much delay,
They came back to Cornwall again, the same way;
And when they returned to their comrades again,
They were looked upon more like "g'eat anjuls" than men.
They met that same night,— Cousin Jan took the chair,—
And then his adventures he told to the *Pare*.[18]
Aw! 'tes a Bra' Keenly Lode, &c.

COUSIN JAN'S STORY.

6 "We got up to Lunnun, cumra-ades,[19] in the night,
An' we tarried at the sta-ation ontel[20] et wor light,
When the cabmen an' dreevars begun for to hoot,
An' ax es to ride, but we travell'd a-foo-t;
'For,' says I, 'we do knaw mun, (now do-an't es cumra-ade?)
That slocken av[21] fools es a trick av youar tra-ade;
So, lev es aloane, soase,[22] we ar'n't to be done;
Or I 'll giv 'ee a scat[23] that shall spooil oal your fun.'
Aw! 'tes a Bra' Keenly Lode, &c.

1 A Mine. 2 Brave, Good, Fine. 3 Promising. 4 A Vein of Mineral.
5 Searching for the Lode on the surface. There are some old miners who profess to be able to discover a Lode by carrying a forked twig of hazel over the ground, which they say, is attracted by the Lode, and bends when they approach the spot where the Lode is: this is called *Dowzing*.
6 A light is sometimes seen on the surface at night, when the Lode is not very deep; and by this sign many mines have been discovered.
7 A term of friendship.—Young men call each other *Cousin*, and old people are called *Uncle* and *Aunt*. Hence the origin, probably, of *Cornish Cousins*.
8 The Course, or Bed, of the Lode. 9 All. 10 A small Beer-shop.
11 Miners are in the habit of resting a short time and smoking a short pipe, which they always carry, after going down into deep mines before they begin to work, and at certain times during their *core* or *working time*: and hence, *Touch-pipe* is applied to any cessation from work.
12 Have. 13 Call. 14 Ask. 15 Forth. 16 A machine by which the stuff is raised from the shaft in small mines before the engine is erected.
17 This is also a machine used in small mines to draw the water out of the shaft. The wheel is turned by water, like a mill-wheel, and this works the pump.
18 A party of miners working together, consisting of from three to eight men. A miner will never go under-ground to work *alone*. Certain portions of ground are measured out in different parts of the mine by the captains every month, or, in some cases, once in two months, which are called *pitches*, and these are taken on the public setting-day by the different *pares*, or parties of men; the price, and manner of payment, varying according to the nature of the ground and the prospect of finding ore.
19 The words are spelt, as nearly as possible, as they would be pronounced by Cornish miners. The two *a*'s should be both sounded,—the first like *a* in *lane*; and the second like the *a* in *father*.
20 Until. 21 Enticing of. 22 Friends or neighbours. 23 A blow.

7 "We travell'd along tel our feet wor quite sooar,[24]
When we seed[25] Sir Ch***s L*m*n[26] a-walking befoar:
So we went up behind un,[27] an' said in his ear,
'How ar' 'ee Sir Ch***s?' which made'n look quear.
'We be two Coarnish minars, an' we're goo-en to Pall-Mall,
For to ax sum rich gents to ta-ak sha-ares in a Bâl.'
'If you've time,' said Sir Ch***s, 'pray call upon me;
Here's my card, upon which my address you may see.'
Aw! 'tes a Bra' Keenly Lode, &c.

8 "'Twor a fine purty little teckot as evar you seed,
Wi' prenten upon om,[28] which we cudn'[29] read;
'Tes wuth a pound no-at, or mooar munny,' says I.
'Do 'ee think so?' says Cap'n, 'Here's a cook-shop; le's try.'
So we bouldly went in, an' I ax'd for sum brath,[30]
Wi' plenty av licks[31] (how the tendar[32] ded laugh!);
Says he, 'D'ye mean soup, sir? 'tis just three o'clock,
And our turtle is ready, but perhaps you'd like mock.'
Aw! 'tes a Bra' Keenly Lode, &c.

9 "Then he broft[33] each a ba-as'n, 'bout the size av a cup,
An' in two or three clunks[34] we had drink'd un oal up.
Says I, 'Tendar! your ba-as'ns, though sma-al, you don't fill,
You may bring I anothar like that, ef you will.'
Says he 'Tis real turtle, and no one takes two
Full basins of this —' says I, 'What's that to you?'
We'd two ba-as'ns a-piece, and I ax'd, 'What's to pay?'
'Ten shillings,' says he; says I, 'What dost a' say?'
Aw! 'tes a Bra' Keenly Lode, &c.

10 "'Ef oal things ar' so dear,' says I, 'we sh'll be scat;[35]
But here's Sir Ch***s L*m*n's teckot, ta-ak the cost out o' that.
We do knaw what 'tes wuth, but we'll lev et to you,
So bring es the change, and ta-ak dennars for two.'
Says he, 'This wont pass here for money, my men,
And I'll take care you sha'nt try to pass it again.'
So he tore up the teckot, an' I hit'n a clout,[36]
Which knack'd'n down steff, an' then we toddled out.
Aw! 'tes a Bra' Keenly Lode, &c.

11 "As we trapes'd[37] down the street the crowd pock'd[38] es about,
For sumtimes we wor inside, an' sumtimes we wor out.
'Whear ar' they oal goo-en to?' says I (in ama-aze),
'To a berren,[39] I spo-ase, Jan,' says Cap'n Polgla-aze.
We ax'd the way to Pall-Mall, 'most at every house,
An' we found Cap'n's friend, after powars o' touse.[40]
He made es quite welcome, an' ax'd es to dine;
'And,' says he, 'after dinner, we'll talk about your mine.'
Aw! 'tes a Bra' Keenly Lode, &c.

12 "We so-at down to dennar, an' I long'd for to begin;
But, 'stead o' flesh, I seed nothèn but g'eat blocks o' tin.
'Ma-astar Stranyar,'[41] says I, 'we've got tin enough ho-am e,
An' we'd ra-ather see tummols[42] o' flesh 'pon the clo-ame.'[43]
Says he, 'These are covers to keep the meat warm.'
'Aw!' says I, 'ax your pa-ard'n; hope I ha'n't said no harm.'
'Not at all, sir,' says he; 'we'll begin, if you please:'
(We'd fish, flesh, and fowl, and roast ducks, and green peas.)
Aw! 'tes a Bra' Keenly Lode, &c.

13 "When the eaten wor awver,[44] the drinken began,
An' a pla-ate an' two glasses wor put to each man.
A glass ba-as'n[45] o' wa-ater wor put to I fust,[46]
An' I drink'd 'n clean off, for I wor chacken wi' thust.[47]
Tendar fill'd'n agen, and I drink'd off that too,
An' said, 'I ca-an't drink no mooar, for the time, I thank you.'
We sould oal our sha-ares, an' we started next day.
Now ca-al in the recknen, for I've no mooar to say."
Aw! tes a Bra' Keenly Lode, &c.

24 Sore. 25 Saw.

26 This gentleman has been the means, in many instances, of improving the condition and comfort of the Cornish miners; and it may therefore be presumed that our heroes were glad to meet with him so far from home, and knowing his kindness, and the great interest he has always taken in their welfare, they were induced to speak to him.

27 Him. 28 It. 29 Could not. 30 Thin soup, made principally with vegetables 31 Leeks. 32 Waiter. 33 Brought. 34 Swallows. 35 Ruined by a single blow. 36 A severe blow. 37 Walked carelessly. 38 Pushed.

39 A Funeral. Miners think it a duty to attend the funerals of their comrades and neighbours; consequently, a funeral in the mining districts is sometimes attended by some thousands of people.

40 Trouble, fuss. 41 The Cornish miners, like the Americans, call every one who is not well known to them *Stranger*.

42 Heaps, large quantities. 43 Common Earthenware. 44 Over. 45 A Finger-glass. 46 First. 47 Choking with thirst.

CUNNACK, PRINTER AND PUBLISHER, HELSTON.