

## The Butcher's Frolic

1. It's of a lu - sty but - - cher as I have heard them say. \_\_\_\_\_ He  
start - ed out \_\_\_\_\_ for Leices - ter shire Up - - on a cer - tain day. \_\_\_\_\_ Said  
he "A fro - - lic I will have my for - tune for to try. \_\_\_\_\_ I  
will go in to Leices - ster - shire some cat - - tle for to buy." \_\_\_\_\_

Source: Sung by James Harding, Stow-on-the-Wold. Collector Cecil Sharp on 28 March 1907, (first verse only). Other verses from a broadside printed by Bebbington, Manchester.

2. When he arrived in Leicester he went into an inn.  
He called an ostler and boldly walked in.  
He called for liquors of the best, he being a roving blade,  
And presently fixed his eyes upon the chambermaid.
3. O then she took a candle to light him to bed,  
And when she came into the room these words to her he said,  
"One sovereign I will give you all to enjoy your charms."  
This fair maid all the night was in the butcher's arms.
4. He rose up in the morning and prepared to go away,  
The landlord said "Your reckoning Sir, you have forgot to pay."  
"Oh no" the butcher he did say, "Do not think it strange,  
I gave a sovereign to the chambermaid, and haven't got the change."
5. He then called the chambermaid and charged her with the same,  
The sovreign she did lay down fearing to get the blame.  
The butcher returned home, well pleased with what had passed,  
But soon the pretty chambermaid grew thick about the waist.
6. 'Twas within twelve months after, he came to town again,  
And then, as he had done before, he stopped at the same inn.  
'Twas then the lovely chambermaid chanced him to see,  
She brought the child just three months old and clapp'd it on his knee.
7. The butcher, like one amazed, he at the child did stare.  
And when the joke he found out, how he did stamp and swear.  
She said "Kind Sir it is your own, so do not think it strange;  
One sovereign you gave me and I have brought the change."

8. The company laughed amain, the joke went freely round,  
And soon tidings of the same spread thro' Leicester town.  
The butcher was to a justice taken, who happened to live near;  
One hundred pounds he did lay down before he could get clear.
  
9. So all you brisk and lively lads, I pray be ruled by me.  
Take care and keep, when you come here, from women's company.  
Or soon your folly will give you cause to range  
For, if you toy with chambermaids, you're sure to get your change.

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