

THE OLD BALLAD OF THE BOY AND THE MANTLE

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The old ballad of The boy and the mantle by Thomas Percy & Robert Biket

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THOMAS PERCY & ROBERT BIKET

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HE BOY AND
THE MANTLE.



IN the third day of May,
To Carleile did come
A kind curteous child,
That cold much of wisdom.

AKirtle and a mantle
This child had uppon,
With 'brouches' and ringes
Full richelye bedone.

HE had a sute of silke
About his middle drawne;
Without he cold of curtesye
He thought itt much shame.

GOD speed thee, King Arthur,
Sitting at thy meat:
And the goodly Queene Guenever,
I cannot her forgett.



Itell you, lords, in this hall;
I hett you all to 'heede';
Except you be the more surer
Is you for to dread."

hE plucked out of his 'poterner',
And longer wold not dwell,
He pulled forth a pretty mantle,
Betweene two nut-shells.



AVE thou here, King Arthur;
Have thou heere of mee:
Give itt to thy comely queene
Shapen as itt is alreadye.



T shall never become the wiffe,
That hath once done amisse."
Then every knight in the kings court
Began to care for 'his.'



ORTH came Dame Guenever;
To the mantle shee her 'hied';
The ladye shee was newfangle,
But yett shee was affrayd.

WHEN shee had taken the mantle;
She stooode as shee had beene madd;
It was from the top to the toe
As sheeres had itt shread.

One while was itt 'gule';
Another while was itt greener;
Another while was itt wadded
Ill itt did her beseeeme.

Another while was it blacke
And bore the worst hues
"By my troth,"
Quoth king Arthur,
"I think thou be not true."

SHEE threw downe the mantle,
That bright was of blee;
Fast with a rudd redd,
To her chamber can shee flee.

Shee curst the weaver, and the walker,
That clothe that had wrought;
And bade a vengeance on his crowne,
That hither hath itt brought.

I had rather be in a wood,
Under a greene tree;
Than in King Arthurs court
Shamed for to bee."

KAY called forth his ladye,
And bade her come neere;
Saies, "Madam, and thou be guiltye,
I pray thee hold thee there.



FORTH came his ladye
Shortlye and anon;
Boldlye to the mantle
Then is shee gone.



WHEN she had tane the mantle,
And cast it her about;
Then was shee bare
Before all the rout.