

**TABELLA CIBARIA: THE BILL OF FARE: A
LATIN POEM, IMPLICITLY TRANSLATED
AND FULLY EXPLAINED IN COPIOUS
AND INTERESTING NOTES, RELATING TO
THE PLEASURES OF GASTRONOMY, AND
THE MYSTERIOUS ART OF COOKERY**

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Tabella Cibarica: The Bill of Fare: A Latin Poem, Implicitly Translated and Fully Explained in Copious and Interesting Notes, Relating to the Pleasures of Gastronomy, and the Mysterious Art of Cookery by A. D. M'Quin

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Tabella Cibaria.

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IN COPIOUS AND INTERESTING NOTES,

RELATING

TO THE PLEASURES OF

GASTRONOMY,

AND THE MYSTERIOUS ART OF

COOKERY.

Ipse memor praecepta canam; celabitur auctor.—HOR.

London:

PUBLISHED BY SHEPARD, NEELY, AND JONES, PATERNOSTER ROW; J. ROBINS AND CO. IVY LANE, PATERNOSTER ROW; AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

1820.

TO THE READER.

THIS little Poem was written several years ago in an idle hour and at the solicitation of a few friends mostly foreigners, who challenged the author upon the apparent impossibility of expressing, in *decent Latin verses*, the curious and pleasingly *tangible* variety of dishes which French eating-houses and hotels lavishly display upon their long and hardly intelligible *Bills of Fare*.

A translation into English was proposed as a convenient appendage; but the Author declaring himself exclusively fond of original and genuine dishes; and a translation being, at all times, and at best, what the French call "*un réchauffé*," this laudable suggestion was set aside.

The Notes, at the end, are explanatory of the Poem—and yet may be read without it. They are especially *intended* to afford instruction and amusement. The commentators humbly trust that they will not fall short of that *intention*.

Though apparently trifling and insignificant in its object, this little "jeu d'esprit" may however prove an useful companion to classic, and other, travellers, since they may find in it an elucidation of many of the mysteries in which the curious art of cookery in this and other countries generally consists.

Being himself a conscious Gastronomer, the writer anticipates a sort of reward for his spontaneous exertions, in the pleasing idea and congenial hope, that many of his readers may, through the means of his performance, be enabled to select dishes less inaccessible to their understanding, and more suitable to their respective tastes.

JUNE 24, 1820.

Tabella Cibaria.

Quas nec gustavit, nec novit Arricius unquam,
Hic canit innumeras Musa jocosa dapes.
Quis qualive siet G.... coquus impiger arte,
Non ego, sed melius fercula laeta probant.

Ex tria mirificam linquent *Sorbilla* culinam 5

Ad libitum, quodvis si modò voce vocas.

Primum ut *Oryza* facit; *Caulis cum carne* secundum;

Tertium, at *excepta carne*, ministrat *Olus*.

Præteream, referamne tuum, *Testudo*, saporem

Magnatum mensas que decorare soles? 10

Hinc procul a nostris remanes aliena palatis,

Dàm mendax titulo stat *Vitulina* tuo.

Bubula tum sequitur simplex, *sine condimento*;

Si *condita* placet, ne crucieris, adest.

Non quâcumque die, certis sed tosta diebus, 15

In verubus sudant *Tergora* obesa *Bovis*.

Quæ fuit ah! *galus*, *Gallinam* falcit *oryza*:

Sic quondam vates vir mulierque fuit.

Qui *impavidus* clauxit Gallos *Tarpeius Ales*,

Hic vitare *avidos*, dente vorante, nequit. 20

Hic circumseptus *Napis* producitur; illic,

Cepula quem sepit, sumpe superbit *Anas*.

Rumice cum viridi jacet hic *Vitulina*, fricando

Obscenos dentes qui renitere dabit.

Confrictus calidâ *gallus*, fit *Pullus* in ollâ: 25

Medeam *Æsonem* sic renovasse ferunt.

Cincipino similis vitulina *Costula* tosta

Pane, apio, et chartâ fumat amicta sua.

Nonne placet *vento* levior, similiaque *volanti*,

Fumans à cibano cum redit *Artocres*? 30

An *Vituli*, cœlo qui non detraxerit ignem,

Te piget innocuum dilacerare *Jecur*?

Quam sectantibus acum transigunt spicula lardi
 Prestò est ad solitum cocta *Bovilla modum*.
 Visne *jussencorum* molles tentare *Palatos*? 35
 Hos pete; nulla in eis Colchica flamma latet;
 Nostrates depasti herbas in margine rivi,
 Thessalicos ignorant gramina seva magis.
 Hic quandoque tibi torrobitor, ossium et expers
Pancreas, et quo nil suavius esse potes. 40
 Irrigat ardentes *Verecix costula* prunas,
 Pròque uno venum *toctis* triente datat.
 Si *Cerebrum* cupias, *carnivore Minutal ovine*,
 Posce prius: cerebri plus satis esso nequit.
 Gaudet *ovis* lapathio, fulvoque legumine *Lingua* 45
 Quod mea complecti carnine *Musa* vetat.
 Quæ concosta tibi *vitulina suballicat*, offam
 Olla, *Here*, cum butyro miscet abena novo.
 Hic *Meleagrei cervis* producit *Apri*
 Nulla, sed indigenæ non malè facta *Suis*. 50
 Nunquid amasapidam, quam vocit *purpura, Pernam*,
 Quamque aluit fæno nigra calina suo?

Hic condita sale et circumdata caulibus adstat ;
 Sudat et ad longum *Sus sale nuda* verù.
 Ecce iterùm *caulis* ! quot eulm dat fercula mense 55
 Brassica *Tucretis* quæ comes esse solet.
 Heus ! puer, *assaturæ caro vitulina* ?—subindè.
 Ociùs assantur *Tergus et Armus* ovis.
Armus ovis mollem thalamum cui sæpè ministrant
 Exilivæ *fabæ*, vel *cichorea* levis. 60
 Unguibus ipsa famem pellet, pedibusque suis *Sus*,
 Et tibi, cum fuscâ pelle, *Botellus* adest.
 Elige, seu tostos *renes*, *caudæ* *Bidentum* ;
 Vel quibus abduxit furta *bovina* latro,
 Qui sub *Aventinâ* insidiatus rupe, retrorsùm 65
 Callidus *Herculeum* traxit ad antra pecus.
 Sæpe coronatos apio, nunc frigida, discos
Hesternis onerat *Bubula* cocta focis.
 Hæc tibi *Phastaco* veniet de flumine nulla,
 Aurea quam nitidam torques adornat *ovem*. 70
 Hæc nec *Hyperboreis* fuscus mittetur ab oris
Tetræ, uxores qui uberat ore suas.