

THE BOOK OF BALLADS

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The Book of Ballads by Ron Gaultier

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RON GAULTIER

**THE BOOK
OF BALLADS**



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The
Book of Ballads

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I' E H O H.

Come, buy my lays, and read them if you list ;
My pensive public, if you list not, buy.
Come, for you know me. I am he who sang
Of Mister Colt, and I am he who framed
Of Widdicombs the wild and wondrous song.

T' C H O N.

Come, listen to my lays, and you shall hear
How Wordsworth, battling for the Laureate's wreath,
Bore to the dust the terrible Fitzball ;
How F. P. Willis for his country's good,
In complete steel, all bowie-knibed at point,
Took lodgings in the Snapping Turtle's womb.
Come, listen to my lays, and you shall hear
The mingled music of all modern bards
Floating aloft in such peculiar strains,
As strike themselves with envy and amaze ;
For you " bright-harped " Tennyson shall sing ;
Macaulay chant a more than Roman lay ;
And Bulwer Lytton, Lytton Bulwer erst,
Unseen amidst a metaphysic fog,
Shall melancholy homage to the moon :
For you once more Montgomery shall rabe
In all his rayt rapidity of rhyme ;
Hanneened Cochaime shall pipe his puny note,
And our young England's penny trumpet blow.