

DAN DINGER AN THA DRINK

Dan Dinger wur a Carpenter an Wheelwright in ower village; besides meakin an mendin carts an waggins, a did do ael tha Squire's fence, geat, an hatch wirk. A med a done well bit tha baiger hood drink like a stoat. I warn'd if a got a glass ar mug up ta his lips, a diden put un down till a wur empty. He played a nayshin crafty trick on tha Squire an his housekeeper once; he an his man an a bwoy, wur doin zim hatch wirk out in mead, an ower Squire always allowed ache man two pints a beer a day, an one var ache bwoy, as long thay wur about it. Zoo a zaays ta tha chap as went atter it, "Tell Missus Mussell, tha housekeeper, ta let thee av vower quarts an a haaf;" "Dall'd if I can do that," zaays tha chap, "var she'll be zure ta ax I how many oance there be; and there's ony you an I, an tha bwoy; an a coose vive pints is tha lowance." "Drat thee stupid head," zaays Dan, "if she do ax thee, cassen zaays there's I, an tha carbinder, thee, an tha leabourer, tha bwoy an tha prentice, zix aeltogether, doosen zee noghead; she wunt know better if thee bissen vool enuff ta tell her." Zoo off went tha chap wie tha jar an wur zoon back wie tha vawer quarts an a haaf, an grinnen ael auver his veace, ta think a Dan's leetle trick in getting on em double lowance. Bit zim chaps a tha village play'd he a nice leetle trick one Zadderdy night, down at tha Pig an Whistle. Dan used ta meak it a practice ta av dree pints a beer down there every nite; an as much mwore as a cood get on tha chep. One Zadderdy night tha Lanleady cotch'd a leetle wee mouse; zom a tha chaps got hold on un, an offer'd ta bet Dan a shillin that a cooden drink a quart a beer right off, athout teaken tha jug away vrim his lips. Dan

greed ta tha challenge vast enuff; zoo tha chaps got tha quart a beer an shot tha leetle mouse inta it. Dan gulliped it down in a twinkle, a bang'd down tha jug an zaays, "Ther ya ar, me lads, han auver tha shillin!"

Thay looked inta tha jug, an ael on un busted out laffen a good un; "Be dang if a hant swallerd un," zaays one; "Swallerd what?" zaays Dan. "Why, a live mouse as we put in." "O did ee zure," zaays he, "well, I fancied I vound a biggish hop ar two gwain along," "Well, I dwoant mind a bit a vittals wie me drink; bit be drat if I beant zorry var thic ar mouse, let it be how twill." Tha last time I zeed Dan, twur a terryable hot day, one Zundy atternoon, a wur commin along at a terryable rate, an got opposite ta where I liv'd, jist as I wur commin out a dooer. Ael at once a pulled up sharp, an begun ta mop his sweaty feace a good un. "Lar, Zam'l," a zaays, "how I da wish I'd a met ee up gean my house." "What var, Dan," zaays I in girt zurprise. "Well," a zaays, "I'd axed ee in ta av a pint a beer." "Ah Dan," I zaays, "We dwoant keep it in house diss know; thank ee var tha hint." A went off in a terryable huff, mutteren about tha hardness a English laas, in shutten up public houzzen on Zundys; an nabiddy ta ax ee in ta av a drink.