1 The Friend of Humanity and the Knife-Grinder

FRIEND OF HUMANITY.

Needy knife-grinder, whither are you going? Rough is the road, your wheel is out of order, Bleak blows the blast; your hat has got a hole in't, So have your breeches!

"Weary knife-grinder! Little think the proud ones,
Who in their coaches roll along the turnpike
Road, what hard work 'tis crying all day, 'Knives and
Scissors to grind O!'

"Tell me, knife-grinder, how you came to grind knives?

Did some rich man tyrannically use you?

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Was it the squire or parson of the parish?

Or the attorney?

"Was it the squire for killing of his game? or
Covetous parson for his tithes distraining?
Or roguish lawyer made you lose your little
All in a law-suit?

"(Have you not read the 'Rights of Man,' by Tom Paine?)
Drops of compassion tremble on my eyelids,
Ready to fall as soon as you have told your
Pitiful story."

KNIFE-GRINDER.

"Story! God bless you! I have none to tell, sir, Only last night a-drinking at the 'Chequers,' This poor old hat and breeches, as you see, were Torn in the scuffle.

"Constable came up for to take me into

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Custody; they took me before the Justice; Justice Oldmixon put me in the parish Stocks, for a vagrant.

"I should be glad to drink your honour's health in A pot of beer, if you would give me sixpence; But for my part, I never love to meddle With politics, sir."

FRIEND OF HUMANITY.

"I give thee sixpence! I will see thee —— first,
Wretch! Whom no sense of wrong can rise to vengeance,
Sordid, unfeeling, reprobate, degraded,
Spiritless outcast!"

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[Kicks the knife-grinder, overturns his wheel, and exit in a transport of Republican enthusiasm and universal philanthropy.]

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