

# LOVE'S STRATAGEM

[Continued]



Around the Bend the Horse was stay'd.  
The Maid had wild Alarms  
When suddenly the Stranger turn'd  
And clasped her in his Arms.

He kissed her once, he kissed her twice,  
She almost died for Fear,  
Till all at once she recognised  
Her own forbidden Dear!

A Moment more of close Embrace,  
And then he told his Plan,  
A plan to gain his True Love back  
By turning Highwayman.

He took her to a little Wood  
Where his own Horse was tied,  
And casting his Disguise away  
He left her there to hide,

What time he fetched a Circuit round  
And reached the Road again,  
And came to where the Father lay  
Cursing with Might and Main.

"How now, Sir Roger? Much I fear  
That some one's mischiefed you."  
And Sir Roger told how he'd been robb'd,  
Purse, Horse and Daughter too.

"The scurvy Knave!" the Young Man cried  
"If you'll accept my Aid,  
I'll follow, be he Devil himself,  
And bring you back your Maid."

"Ah! would you might," the Father said,  
So off the Young Man rides,  
And comes again to the little Wood  
Where his Beloved hides.

And soon he brings her back again  
And eke both Horse and Purse,  
"Sir Roger, I've brought your Daughter here  
No Penny Piece the worse."

And this at least I'll answer for  
But he was well nigh slain  
"I fear the Villain has escaped,  
He'll never rob again."

"Oh! welcome Girl," Sir Roger cried,  
"And you, you Rascal, too.  
And since you've brought her back to me  
I'll give her back to you."

