

Get Up and Bar the Door (Child 275A)

- 1 IT fell about the Martinmas time,
And a gay time it was then,
When our goodwife got puddings to make,
And she 's boild them in the pan.
- 2 The wind sae cauld blew south and north, 5
And blew into the floor;
Quoth our goodman to our goodwife,
'Gae out and bar the door.'
- 3 'My hand is in my hussyfskap,
Goodman, as ye may see; 10
An it shoud nae be barrd this hundred year,
It's no be barrd for me.'
- 4 They made a paction tween them twa,
They made it firm and sure,
That the first word whaeer shoud speak, 15
Shoud rise and bar the door.
- 5 Then by there came two gentlemen,
At twelve o clock at night,
And they could neither see house nor hall,
Nor coal nor candle-light. 20
- 6 'Now whether is this a rich man's house,
Or whether is it a poor?'
But neer a word wad ane o them speak,
For barring of the door.
- 7 And first they ate the white puddings, 25
And then they ate the black;
Tho muckle thought the goodwife to hersel,
Yet neer a word she spake.
- 8 Then said the one unto the other,
'Here, man, tak ye my knife; 30

Do ye tak aff the auld man's beard,
And I 'll kiss the goodwife.'

9 'But there 's nae water in the house,
And what shall we do than?'

'What ails ye at the pudding-broo,
That boils into the pan?' 35

10 O up then started our goodman,
An angry man was he:

'Will ye kiss my wife before my een,
And scad me wi pudding-bree?' 40

11 Then up and started our goodwife,
Gied three skips on the floor:

'Goodman, you 've spoken the foremost word,
Get up and bar the door.'