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SALAMANINI

Anonymous,

*The Harnet and the Bittle. A Whimsical Satire on
Litigation, in the Somersetshire Dialect (1843)*

A Harnet set in a hollow tree--
A proper spiteful twoad was he--
And merrily he sung, while he did set
His sting as sharp as a baganet,
“Oh, who zo bowld and a vierce as I
I vears not bee, nor waspe, nor vly?
Chorus--Oh, who so bowld, &c.

A bittle up thuck tree did elim',
And scarnvully did luk at him,
Zays he, “Zur Harnet, who giv' thee
A right to zet in thuck there tree?
Although you zengs zo nation vine,

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I tell 'e its a house of mine."
Chorus--Although you zengs, &c.

The Harnet's conscience velt a twinge,
But growing bowld wi' his long stinge,
Zays he, "Possession's the best law,
Zo here th' shasn't put a claw.
Be off and leave the tree to me;
The mixen's good enough vor thee!"
Chorus--be off and leave, &c.

Just then a Yueel passin' by,
Was axed by them their cause to try.
"Ha, ha! It's very plain," says he,
"They'll make a vamous nunch vor me!"
His bill was sharp, his stomach lear,
Zo up a snapped the caddlin' pair.
Chorus--His bill as sharp, &c.

MORAL

All you as be to law inclined,
This leetle story bear in mind;
For if to law you ever gwo,
You'll vind they'll allus sarve 'e so;
You'll meet the vate of these 'ere two,
They'll take your cwoat and carcase too.
Chorus--You'll meet the vate, &c.