

18 THE DAGONET BALLADS

Come and sit down in my shanty, you've nearly
an hour to wait,
If you care for the rest I can tell you the story
of Burton's fate.

Never mind how I know it—there's plenty o'
folks beside

As knows about Master Burton, and why he
came here and died ;

For the women ha' talked it over, and when-
ever that comes about,

Wherever there's secrets hidden, the women 'll
hunt 'em out.

They wagged their heads when he married
poor penniless Mercy Leigh

Right on the top of her hearin' as her lover
was drowned at sea.

Lord, how the women chattered—scandalous
things they said !

Hintin' she wanted a husband to hide her sin
with the dead !

This Mercy Leigh was the daughter of decentish
honest folks,

And Burton had made her an offer, but she
treated his words as jokes,