

ROUGE ET NOIR.

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We drink his stuff but don't know what it is for which we pay,
I don't know if it's true, of course, but it's what the people say.

And have you heard that very soon the bank to grief must come?

For Mr. Stocks has recently lost quite a heavy sum ;
And that's perhaps the reason why his hair has turned so grey :

I don't know if it's true, of course, but it's what the people say.

That vulgar widow lately come whose walk makes people stare,

I'm told the Curate half the time in Church is ogling her ;
And that he's so in debt that here he can't much longer stay.

I don't know if it's true, of course, but it's what the people say.

IT'S WHAT THE PEOPLE SAY.

I know a lady, Mrs. Clack, whom if I chance to meet,
To have a little friendly chat she'll stop me in the street.
O! I must tell you all the news she cried the other day ;
I don't know if it's true, of course, but it's what the people say.

The Rector is a man that likes his glass of wine, you know ;
Well, he tumbled down last Sunday week, that day we had the snow.

They tell me that his voice was thick when he got up to pray :
I don't know if it's true, of course, but it's what the people say.

The lawyer, Mr. Parchment's one to whom I wish no harm ;
But do you know how he became possessed of Chalkley farm?

It's rumoured he got hold of it some questionable way ;
I don't know if it's true, of course, but it's what the people say.

Poor Mrs. Johnson's baby's gone, it died on Tuesday night :
I'm told the doctor killed it, well, you know a doctor might :

And then that child Belinda Crimp that's just come home from school—

I wish they'd send her back again, she's such a smirking fool—

Just think ! has set her cap at him ; that why she's dressed so gay :

I don't know if it's true, of course, but it's what the people say.

That tall dark whiskered foreign man it's shocking, on my life—

They tell me's making desperate love to Mr. Simpson's wife :

That she won't run away with him they wouldn't sixpence lay :

I don't know if it's true, of course, but it's what the people say.

Do you know, Mrs. Clack, I cried, reports are going round

That you're a toad that poison spits on every spot of ground ;

That with your mischief-making tongue you love to kill and flay :

I don't know if it's true, of course, but it's what the people say.

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