

Ye Welle of St. Keyne.

Among all the attractions of "Ye Olde Englishe Faire," one that should receive a visit from everyone, but especially from the young aspirants to matrimonial bliss, is the very picturesque alcove containing the exact counterpart of the celebrated Well of St. Keyne. To understand the merits of the water drawn from this wonderful well, one should read the following legend:—

A well there is in the west country, and a clearer one never was seen,
There is not a wife in the west country but has heard of the Well of St. Keyne ;
An oak and an elm tree stand beside, and behind does an ash tree grow,
And a willow from the bank above droops to the water below.
A traveller came to the Well of St. Keyne, joyfully he drew nigh,
For from cock-crow he had been travelling, and there was not a cloud in the sky ;
He drank of the water so cool and clear, for thirsty and hot was he,
And he sat him down upon the bank under the willow tree.
There came a man from the neighbouring town, at the Well to fill his pail,
On the Well-side he rested it, and he bade the stranger hail :
"Now, art thou a bachelor, stranger?" quoth he, "for, an' if thou hast a wife,
The happiest draught thou hast drunk this day that ever thou didst in thy life ;
Or has thy good woman, if one thou hast, ever here in Cornwall been,
For, an' if she have, I'll venture my life she has drunk of the Well of St. Keyne ?"
"I have left a good woman who never was here," the stranger he made reply,
"But that my draught should be better for that, I pray you answer me why ?"
"St. Keyne," quoth the Cornish man, "many a time drank of this crystal Well,
And before the angel summoned her she laid on the water a spell :—