

ly what he was doing, his hand was stretched out to take a few, when the shrill voice of the landlady from behind called out,

‘You touch them if you dare, sir!’

John was startled, but before he could reply, the landlady added,

‘The idea of your taking such liberty! I should like to know what you are thinking about?’

‘Well, missus, I was only going to take one or two to wet ny whistle.’

‘You had better not try it on,’ she said with warmth.

‘Why you won’t mind my having a few. I was so thirsty, and they look so tempting,’ said John, thinking she was joking.

‘No, sir, not one, I have just bought them as a treat for my children; they are