

34 THE DAGONET BALLADS

Another had seen Sal crying, and noticed a
bruise on her cheek,
And then the women remembered she'd stayed
indoors for a week.
But at last the whole court knew it, for the
sounds of the strife grew high,
And Sally ran out all bloody, with a big cut
over her eye;
Jack at her heels came swearing, and straight
at her throat he flew,
And beating her down he kicked her, splitting
her cheek in two.

Then some of the women hissed him, but he
gave her another kick
Right in the breast, and this time—— Faugh!
but it makes one sick
To tell of that deed inhuman—it's common
enough, they say,
And down in these courts it happens pretty
well every day.
Poor Sal was just like a dead thing, but they
let Jack slink away,
And when he was safe, policemen were beckoned
to where she lay.