

Rider Haggard, creepy thing—
 For, moving solemnly in a ring,
 Were three masked men, 'neath the waning moon,
 Dancing the Pig Bandit Rigadoon!
 A horrible, creepy, eyrie feeling,
 Down the night watchman's back went stealing;
 For he has by any chance,
 Seen the awful Pig Bandit Dance,
 Is filled with a mighty desire to flee,
 Back to the hills of the clay countree.
 The watchman shook like a frightened nigger,
 'Till he shook a twig against his trigger,
 Bang! went his gun—out went the light,
 And nothing was left but the dreadful night!

THE FEUDAL SUMMONS

The very next morn, as required by law,
 He spake to the Duke of all he saw;
 Of the blazing light and the waning moon,
 And the terrible Pig Bandit Rigadoon.
 Then quoth the Duke, "Such things must cease,
 It is my duty to keep the peace.
 I will walk the night 'till this robber band,
 Is forever ousted from Samarcand."
 So he called in his knights and serfs from the farm,
 And gave instructions that all should arm.
 Senor Butler of figure trim,
 George the Maurice, of visage grim,
 Mason, the scribe, with his deadly Colt,
 And Henry, his guest, of the tribe of Holt.
 Each to the Duke's request replied,
 And "Death to the Pig Bandits," loudly cried.

THE AMBUSCADE

That night the Duke with his sturdy band,
 The cream and flour of Samarcand,
 Worthy stock of the old Crusaders,
 Set forth to capture the Berkshire raiders.
 Scarce had they reached the chufa fields,
 When they heard the sound of distant wheels,
 Coming slowly along the road,
 By the very spot where the swine abode.
 The band crouched low and with bated breath,
 Waited the coming of glory or death.

THE LONE HERO

Now it happened that Malcolm, yeleft McCready,
 Fared forth that night to see his lady,
 And coming back in a state forlorn,
 Had bought him a quart of illicit corn
 To sooth the pangs of his broken heart,
 And heal the wounds of Cupid's dart.
 (For it happened that Malcolm had also ran,
 And his lady gone off with another man)
 So driving along, plunged deep in gloom,
 He suddenly saw a tall figure loom,
 Out of the darkness beside the road,
 Which up to his wagon swiftly strode.
 Malcolm drew rein. "Halt, who goes here,
 And have you any pigs in the rear?"
 Came the voice of the Duke of Samarcand,
 And straightway up rushed his gallant band,
 Each one armed to the teeth and ready,
 To spill the blood of Malcolm McCready.

* * *

The rest is writ in the records of court,
 Held at Carthage, in brief and tort,
 Written by Sewell and Burns and Spence,
 At the cost of many a thousand pence,
 How Malcolm sued and the Duke defended,
 And how at last the trial ended.
 But it will go down to all the ages,
 And oft be recalled by the sooths and sages
 How the valiant knights of Samarcand,
 Went forth to baffle the Pig Bandit Band.



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