



Lady Blunderpin's Family Coach

BY M. K. JESSOP.

[This game is like "stage-coach." The players are seated while one reads the verses. Whenever mention of a team is made, the players who represent that team must rise, trot around the ring after their leaders, and then resume their own places. Forfeits are exacted for failures to obey the rule in any particular, and the one who reads the lines shall be sole judge of whether a forfeit must be paid.

Any number may play. If there are enough, have four players in each of the seven teams, besides a leader for each, who is called by the name of the day upon which the team is used. If players are few, have one player and a leader to each team.

Other players can be called by the names of characters or things mentioned in the verses.]

COME, ladies and gentlemen, watch the approach

Of my Aunt Lady Blunderpin's family coach!
It's now but a relic of times passed away,
But I've had it drawn out for your pleasure to-day.

It has big C-springs, and panels the hue
Of a gingerbread loaf, picked out with dark blue.

CHORUS.

It was drawn by four horses. On Monday,
four bays;
On Tuesday, four chestnuts; on Wednesday,
four grays;

On Thursday, four piebalds; on Friday, four
blacks;

On Saturday, browns; and on Sunday, four
hacks.

The coachman, John Thomas, would never
put in

His horses on Sunday—he thought it a sin.
When I was a young thing, a small little girl
With very short skirts and my hair all in curl,
She asked me to visit—her message came
Sunday;

She called with the coach for me early on
Monday.

I was dressed in my best, but in spite of
reproach
I wept when she came in her family coach,
Which was drawn, etc.

While the wheelers kicked up to John
Thomas's feet!

A crowd soon collected, blockading the street;
My aunt became frightened and sent for the
browns,

Which, she said, were much quieter passing
through towns.

But the way was so long, and the browns
were so slow!

They were whipped and were spurred, but
they still would not go.

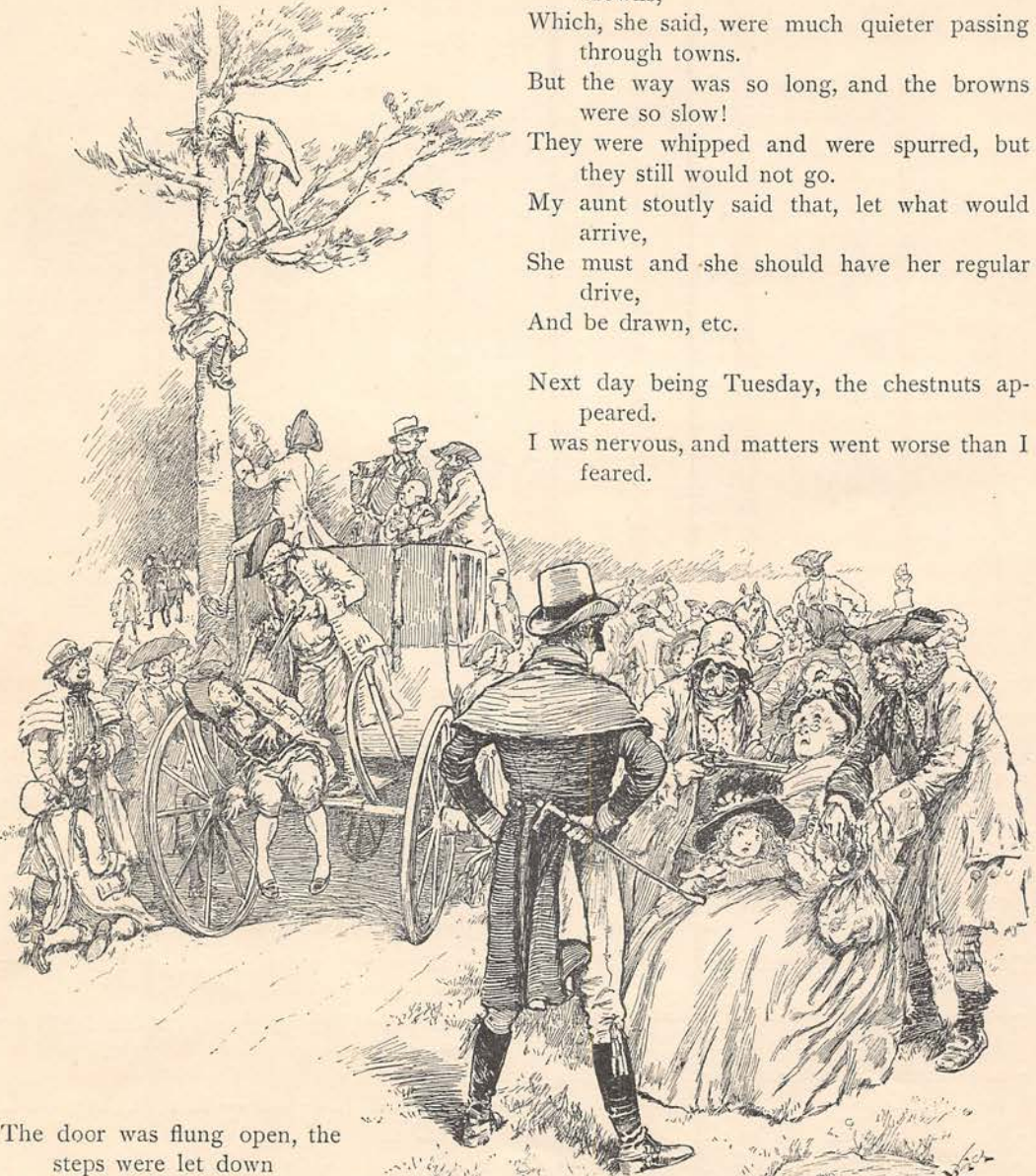
My aunt stoutly said that, let what would
arrive,

She must and she should have her regular
drive,

And be drawn, etc.

Next day being Tuesday, the chestnuts ap-
peared.

I was nervous, and matters went worse than I
feared.



The door was flung open, the
steps were let down
By a footman called James and
another named Brown.
The bays had not worked since the
Monday before,
So the leaders turned round and looked in at
the door,

"WE MET FORTY HIGHWAYMEN."

We met forty highwaymen out on the lea,
And they dragged out my aunt, and they
lifted out me.

They let the four chestnuts run loose on the
plain,

They stole Lady Blunderpin's gold watch and
chain.

In a lofty pine-tree, on the very top twig,
They fastened John Thomas's best powdered
wig.

But though James was dismayed and Brown
had a fit,

Aunt Blunderpin was not discouraged a bit.
She stoutly declared she did not care a fig;
She promised John Thomas a new powdered
wig.

By her order they harnessed the chestnuts
once more,

And when we reached home she paused at
the door

To remark to John Thomas: "You must not
suppose

I 'll be scared from my drive by such
cowards as those.

I will drive my four horses," etc.

Next day the gray horses came round about
noon;

But they did not come back till the full of the
moon,

For we met a young couple for Gretna Green
bound,

And they took my aunt's horses to cover the
ground,

While we traveled home in a hired post-
chaise,

And Aunt Blunderpin stormed at their impu-
dent ways.

The horses came back before aunt was in
bed,

So she steadied her voice and with dignity
said:

"I am angry, of course, with these flighty
young fools,

But I see no occasion to alter my rules.

I 'll be drawn by four horses," etc.

Next day being Thursday, as you will have
guessed,

The four piebald steeds were in early request.

We drove a long way, going steady and slow,
Till we chanced to encounter a traveling show.
It was not a large circus,—indeed it was
small,

And we would not have noticed the matter
at all,

But the folks crowded round and we were
not let go,

For they thought the four piebalds belonged
to the show;

But the manager said we must "humor their
whim,"

Or they 'd pull the tent down upon her and
on him!

So Aunt Lady Blunderpin entered the ring,
And they called for a dance and they forced
her to sing.

At last we were free and drove off at full
pace.

Poor Aunty looked terribly red in the face,
And her mantle was torn, and her hair was so
rough,

I certainly thought she 'd had driving enough;
But she sternly remarked: "While I am alive
I must and I will have my regular drive,
And be drawn by four horses," etc.

Next day being Friday, we drove with the
blacks,

John Thomas chastised them with manifold
cracks

Of the family whip, for I 'm sorry to say
John Thomas's temper was sour that day,

But that he drove badly I cannot quite say.
We only encountered one trifling delay:

The horses were borrowed to draw a big
hearse;

But they soon gave them back, so it might
have been worse.

The horses were weary; our drive was post-
poned;

My aunt said that horses should never be
loaned,

"For my rule with my horses is, Monday,"
etc.

John wrinkled his eyebrows and nodded his
head;

But "Yes, sure, my lady," was all that he
said.



"I AM GOING TO DRIVE EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR!"

So the next day we drove through the principal towns
 Behind those slow plodders, the steady old browns.
 It was perfectly safe, but we made a poor show ;
 Not one of the four was quite able to go.
 One horse fell in front, and another behind ;
 One soon lost his shoe, and another was blind.
 But at last we reached home, just as eventide fell.
 Aunt Blunderpin said we had done very well,
 But that evening I fancied she felt rather small,
 Till she called out to John, as he passed through the hall :

"I have driven them all, browns, chestnuts, and blacks,
 Bays, piebalds, and grays. It is time for the hacks.
 I am not disheartened ; I do not know fear ;
 I am going to drive every day in the year,
 And be drawn by four horses," etc.

And indeed it was so : for while she was alive
 My aunt every day took her regular drive ;
 And I found that whenever I traveled that way,
 In sunshine or shadow, by night or by day,
 That somewhere or other I 'd see her approach
 Sitting quite at her ease in her family coach,
 Which was drawn, etc.