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In the February 1975 Kickshaws, Dave Silverman introduced Word Ways readers to Richard Armour's Punctured Poems (Prentice-Hall, 1966), a literary tour de force in which implausible second lines are appended to famous first lines. Actually, this concept has been around awhile, and has been independently discovered by many people; for example, two hymns-that-never-were begin:

Blest be the tie that binds / My collar to my shirt  
Stand up, stand up for Jesus / For Jesus Christ, stand up!

(The second line of the latter hymn should be sung with feeling when attempting to dress a squirming two-year-old.)

Although it's hard to top Armour's output, we thought we'd try. Here's the best of a large collection of literary non sequiturs:

My heart leaps up when I behold  
My pumpernickel green with mold.

In Flanders Fields the poppies grow  
The opium yield this year was low.

Who has seen the wind? Neither you nor I,  
But California smog will surely catch your eye.

Once upon a midnight dreary,  
Late-Late Show starred Wallace Beery.

I think that I shall never see  
My contact lens fell in my tea.

Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam,  
And a thousand large cans of rug shampoo foam.

My love is like a red, red rose  
Her perfume irritates my nose.

Lives of great men all remind us,  
IRS is right behind us.
Double, double, toil and trouble --
Six no-trump; should I redouble?

The sun that brief December day
Rose in the West -- odd, I must say.

Tell me not in mournful numbers
Supper will be stuffed cucumbers.

Boots, boots, boots, boots, moving up and down again --
Toots, toots, toots, toots, tearing up the town again.

Oh, beautiful for spacious skies --
We'll need the room if birth rates rise.

Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war;
We must kill the bastards (I forget what for).

Pensive nun, devout and pure,
Kicked her habit, took the cure.

The boy stood on the burning deck
And wished it were a discotheque.

Piping down the valleys wild
Exxon hath the view defiled.

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day;
The courting couples cuddle in the hay.

Under a spreading chestnut tree
In thunderstorm's no place to be!

A garden is a lovesome thing, Got wot,
But weeding makes my spine a painful knot.

Roll on, thou deep and dark blue ocean, roll;
I'll stay ashore and soothe my queasy soul.

With rue my heart is laden:
My bride was not a maiden!

The Camptown ladies sing this song,
"I fear I've placed my bets all wrong".

Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep
In a game of poker -- she bet the heap.

Lizzie Borden took an axe --
The first of female lumberjacks.

By the shores of Gitchee-Gumee
Sits a teepee, cramped and gloomy.

DIFFER

TOM PUI
Somerset

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