



## The Popular Ballad

By Francis Barton Gummere

TheClassics.us. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 96 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.2in. This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1907 edition. Excerpt: . . . CHAPTER II THE BALLADS I. THE OLDEST GROUPS ENGLISH and Scottish ballads may be grouped according to their subject, their form, their relative age. The oldest ballads, apart from any question about the time when they were recorded or rescued from oral tradition, have mainly a stanza of two verses, a constant refrain, and the mark of verbal repetition in its most distinct shape; they are placed by Professor Child in the forefront of his collection; and first of all stands a ballad of riddles. Along with gnomic poetry of varying kinds, the riddle is of quite immemorial age. Together they formed a counterpart to those great chorals of primitive verse which dealt with deeds and things; and this intellectual invasion of poetry can still be traced in low stages of culture. The Botocudos of South America sang, and are probably still singing, in...



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