

FOREWORD

The trouble with picking up a good book is the difficulty in putting it down again. Having turned a few pages of Thomson's Compleat Collection it became clear that we only use a small part of our musical heritage, and that many fascinating tunes and dances are buried in these old collections.

This book contains ten tunes, which to the best of my knowledge have not been used very often during the last thirty years and for probably much longer. To nine of these have been added interpretations or modifications of the dances which were set to them in the original volumes, the tenth dance is a concoction of my own.

Four sources have been used, namely Thompson's Compleat Collection Vol. 4 of 1780 (usually known as Mrs. Apted's old book), Thomas Wilson's Companion to the Ballroom of 1816, Daniel Wright's Compleat Collection Vol. 1 of 1742 and John Walsh's Twenty Four Country Dances for 1732 from which the tune Groveners Square was taken and modified for "The Blue Primrose".

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