

MARY ROGERS
A RONDEL
BY UNCLE PODGERS (*né* BLONDEL)

MARY ROGERS ! Woe to men,
Parsons, lawyers, sailors, sodgers !
Ca' me canty but¹ and ben ?
Mary Rogers !

Does she live by taking lodgers ?
She is beautiful, but then
Quaint old jossers, queer old codgers—²

How she does it, do ye ken ? ³
Women are such artful dodgers !
Lord ! I'd love to be there when
Mary Rogers.⁴

¹ But and ben—a Scots expression, very powerful and chaste.

² This sentence is left unfinished for effect.

³ Does what ? This is a problem rondel.

⁴ *i.e.* when yet unmarried.