

I began to look around for the first time yesterday for early jest books. I find that the reserve department of the public library has a book published in 1789 by Cary and Spottswood of Phila. It is in two parts, first "The American Jest Book", second, "The Merry Fellow." Both have finely engraved frontispieces of groups of story tellers. I ran through them hastily. Find many of the stories are credited to distinguished personages. Several in the book are credited to a celebrated Mr. Quin.¹

I am of the opinion that this Quin is one that Mr. Fortune has been looking for, and that instead of a book that he tells me was circulated in SW Indiana, being the King's or Queen's Jester, that it was "Quin's Jester." We came to some such conclusion as that before, and this seems to back it up.

There is but little in this book, so far as I went, that could not be repeated anywhere. There are a few of what we call vulgar stories, though none of them particularly bad, and certainly none of them very clever. If Lincoln and his fellows had nothing worse than this there certainly is nothing to make a fuss about.

The next point is to consult the English wit and humor of the same period. Quin's was probably an English book, if there was such.