

Cowbridge Inns and Hostelrys (at the end of the last century)

O'er Stalling Down I tramped to town, and to a ROSE AND CROWN I came.
From there I crossed the road unto THE EDMONDES ARMS by name.
A short stay there, and to THE RAILWAY got at last.
Inside, I met an old COMMERCIAL, who had been a DRUID in the past.
He placed me in a WHEELWRIGHT'S ARMS, among some carts and gigs;
Straight into the BRIDGE INN we went, where I had a few more swigs.
And there I met a HORSE AND GROOM, the groom had leggings on his legs.
He rang a BLUE BELL, saying BUTCHERS come,
and chopped off THREE BOARS HEADS.
Just then a LION came in sight, and to me this was no joke.
But he toddled back into his den, inside some ROYAL OAK.
And there I met Lord Raglan, full up with wit and yarns.
He led me to a cosy place they call the COWBRIDGE ARMS.
And there I found the finest fight that any man could touch.
Jim Nap had struck the Marquis, and the Marquis struck Bob Crutch.
Then young Dill Nag flew at Ned Scragg, Twm Nennan hit Jack Nanney.
Then Brecon Dai and Bill-my-Dear gave 'gruel' to Ned Granney.
While Will the Sawyer with his saw made sure of old Jim Surrey.
But the one who whipped the blessed lot was little Johnnie Whippey.
And further on I met a DUKE, who was gazing at a BEAR.
It had devoured some MASONS, who happened to be there.
This did not frighten me a bit. I gave the BEAR a push.
And off he trotted around a GLOBE to hide inside a BUSH.
When I tried to hook him out, the beggar began to squeak.
So a PELICAN came to help me with his long and powerful beak.
And when I got him going again, a GREYHOUND that was thin
chased the blighter up the road, right to the WESTGATE INN.

It is said that when the gas street lighting was first installed, there were twenty six lamp standards erected in the town, and at that time there were twenty six pubs. How appropriate if they had been sited outside each of the pubs.

The licensed houses named are twenty two, but there were two DRUIDS (the Old and New), and two LIONS (Red and White); also the CROSS KEYS, the NAGS HEAD, the WHITE HART, the ANGEL, and the SPREAD EAGLE.