

It's but a Minor Incident

"The virus has come here," you say.
 "So what? We're Brits and *we* don't cringe;
"We'll take it on the chin like men.
 "This virus never shall impinge
"Upon the daily lives we lead.
 "See, I shake hands with all I meet.
"Let Chelt'nham races go ahead!
 "Cheer up, cheer up, don't be downbeat.
" 'Lock down', you say, "Oh dear me, no.
 "Don't be a wimp; stand up, be brave.
"The virus will just wash o'er us
 "And then will pass just like a wave.
"Oh pooh! Oh bah! Just be content!
"It's but a minor incident."

"Oh yes, I know, we did lockdown
 "To save the NHS, my friend.
"To give the nurses space as they
 "Against this virus did contend.
"I know it's hard to isolate,
 "To stay at home and not go out.
"What's that, you say? That Cummings left
 "His home with fam'ly and did flout
"The lockdown rules when he drove up
 "To Durham over Eastertide.
"A special circumstance was that;
 "Don't gripe! He's staying at my side.
"Oh pooh! Oh bah! Just be content!
"It's but a minor incident."

"I eased lockdown too fast, you say.
 "The Welsh and Scots want slower speeds.
"Oh pooh! They're different peoples so
 "They think they have their different needs.
"It brings confusion? Surely no.
 "And Cummings staying in his post
"Makes people think the rules are slack;
 "Obeying them is not foremost
"Consideration on their minds,
 "As they enjoy the summer weather.
"And now you fear they're being lax
 "As on the sands they sit together.
"Oh pooh! Oh bah! Just be content!
"It's but a minor incident."

“The Brexit trade talks, so you say,
“Are stalling, so it would be well
“To have the deadline moved so that
“We may upon the virus dwell
“And concentrate our efforts all
“On combatting the Covid curse
“Before the cases rise again
“And things will go from bad to worse.
“If we’re not careful, so you claim,
“We’ll have a Brexit with no deal.
“Come on, have faith! The deadline stays;
“My oven-ready Brexit’s real.
“Oh pooh! Oh bah! Just be content!
“It’s but a minor incident.”

“I know that Covid cases now
“Are on the increase as each Uni
“Receives its students back again.
“Stop griping! Do not be so puny.
“It’s not a thing one could foresee,
“Whate’er you claim, but be assured
“We’ll tame this outbreak, get it down
“Under control and all secured;
“We’ll lead the world with track and trace
“And have an app that’s truly great.
“We’ll whack the virus on its head!
“We’ll knock it down! We’ll seal its fate.
“Oh pooh! Oh bah! Just be content!
“It’s but a minor incident.”

“Th’ Internal Market Bill, you claim,
“Transgresses international law,
“And brings our nation naught but shame.
“But that’s an argument of straw;
“The Bill safeguards our sovereign state
“And just enables us to break
“The law in small and trivial ways
“And only, mark you, for the sake
“Of some specific, urgent need.
“You know, my friend, my word is true;
“And we shall only break the law
“If it’s the only thing to do.
“Oh pooh! Oh bah! Just be content!
“It’s but a minor incident.”

“You want me now to sack Patel,
 “My Home Department Secret’ry
“Of State because, you say, she bullied
 “Her Civil Servants. Goodness me,
“I find no proof in that report.
 “So she is staying. Just don’t gripe!
“Sir Alex has resigned? So what?
 “That’s up to him! It’s drivel, tripe
“And tosh to say I am to blame.
 “And look, my ministers are great:
“Patel and Hancock, Raab and Gove.
 “So ease up; just stop quibbling, mate!
“Oh pooh! Oh bah! Just be content!
“It’s but a minor incident.”

“Don’t moan about the trade talks so!
 “I went to Brussels, didn’t I?
“The turbot, my dear friend, was not
 “A subtle hint to modify
“Our fishing stance; nor yet was it
 “Recalling Juvenal’s fourth satire.
“My ministers are not corrupt;
 “They’re competent and they inspire
“Respect, unlike Domitian’s lot.
 “The talks are fine; Australian-wise
“We’ll make a break with EU rules.
 “A global market is our prize.
“Oh pooh! Oh bah! Just be content!
“It’s but a minor incident.”

Oh stow it, Johnson, that’s enough!
 Enough of your prevarication!
When Covid struck our friends in Europe,
 You made not any preparation.
You acted late with no coherence,
 While giving contracts to your chums.
And trying to renege upon
 The Withdrawal Agreement really plumbs
Deception’s depths; you jeopardize
 The Northern Irish peace, ignore
The Scots, and recklessly reject
 Allies of forty years and more.
Yes, Grand Poobah, I’m malcontent,
For *you*’re no minor incident!