

The Dancing Peas

By A. Le Braz

Madame Madec was an old grocer, living at Pont-Croix (Finistère). Having been ill for some time, she took a young girl of the neighbourhood to replace her in the shop.

One evening, a peasant came to buy some peas. The girl came to serve him. She had put the peas into one side of the scales and was about to weigh them, when, all at once, they began to jump about and to whirl like the dancers at a fair!

I assure you it was most amusing.

The girl thought the peasant was making fun of her. But, no; he stood at a distance from the counter with crossed arms in Breton fashion, and he was even more amazed than she was to see the peas dancing as they did for two or three minutes; indeed, he had some hesitation in taking them, declaring that they must be bewitched.

When he had gone the girl hastened behind the shop to tell the story to Madame Madec. But Madame Madec was beyond hearing. She had just breathed her last.

(Related by Madame Riolay. Quimper, June 1891.)