**THE LION AND ALBERT** by Marriott Edgar  
  
There's a famous seaside place called Blackpool,  
That's noted for fresh-air and fun,   
And Mr and Mrs Ramsbottom   
Went there with young Albert, their son.   
  
A grand little lad was their Albert  
All dressed in his best; quite a swell   
'E'd a stick with an 'orse's 'ead 'andle   
The finest that Woolworth's could sell.  
  
They didn't think much to the ocean  
The waves, they was fiddlin' and small   
There was no wrecks... nobody drownded  
'Fact, nothing to laugh at, at all.   
  
So, seeking for further amusement   
They paid and went into the zoo   
Where they'd lions and tigers and cam-els   
And old ale and sandwiches too.   
  
There were one great big lion called Wallace   
His nose were all covered with scars  
He lay in a som-no-lent posture  
With the side of his face to the bars.  
  
Now Albert had heard about lions   
How they were ferocious and wild  
And to see Wallace lying so peaceful   
Well... it didn't seem right to the child.   
  
So straight 'way the brave little feller   
Not showing a morsel of fear  
Took 'is stick with the'orse's 'ead 'andle   
And pushed it in Wallace's ear!   
  
You could see that the lion didn't like it  
For giving a kind of a roll  
He pulled Albert inside the cage with 'im   
And swallowed the little lad... whole!   
  
Then Pa, who had seen the occurrence   
And didn't know what to do next  
Said, "Mother! Yon lions 'et Albert"  
And Mother said "Eeh, I am vexed!"  
  
So Mr and Mrs Ramsbottom  
Quite rightly, when all's said and done  
Complained to the Animal Keeper   
That the lion had eaten their son.   
  
The keeper was quite nice about it   
He said, "What a nasty mishap   
Are you sure that it's your lad he's eaten?"   
Pa said, "Am I sure? There's his cap!"  
  
So the manager had to be sent for   
He came and he said, "What's to do?"   
Pa said, "Yon lion's 'eaten our Albert   
And 'im in his Sunday clothes, too."  
  
Then Mother said, "Right's right, young feller   
I think it's a shame and a sin   
For a lion to go and eat Albert   
And after we've paid to come in!"   
  
The manager wanted no trouble   
He took out his purse right away   
And said, "How much to settle the matter?"   
And Pa said "What do you usually pay?"   
  
But Mother had turned a bit awkward   
When she thought where her Albert had gone  
She said, "No! someone's got to be summonsed"  
So that were decided upon.   
  
Round they went to the Police Station   
In front of a Magistrate chap  
They told 'im what happened to Albert   
And proved it by showing his cap.  
  
The Magistrate gave his o-pinion  
That no-one was really to blame   
He said that he hoped the Ramsbottoms   
Would have further sons to their name.  
  
At that Mother got proper blazing   
"And thank you, sir, kindly," said she  
"What waste all our lives raising children  
To feed ruddy lions? Not me!"