

# Butler's Ale

Words and Music: Nigel Harbron

A D B E  
 But - ler's Ale will ne - ver fail to make your bo - dy strong and hale, It'll —  
 C# F#m D A E A  
 cheer you up when you are down, and make you think you wear a crown.  
 A D A B E  
 Will - iam But - ler was his name, Through me - di - cine he rose — to fame, But his  
 A D A E A  
 po - tions were to no av - ail, Com - pared to a pint of his own — mulled ale. When  
 A E D E  
 good King James fell off his horse, To Doc - tor B he had re - course. A  
 A D A E A  
 strict re - gime, six pints a day, Soon saw him gal - lop - ing on — his way.

*Ch: Butler's Ale will never fail  
 To make your body strong and hale,  
 It'll cheer you up when you are down,  
 And make you think you wear a crown.*

William Butler was his name,  
 Through medicine he rose to fame,  
 But his potions were to no avail  
 Compared to a pint of his own mulled ale.  
 When good King James fell off his horse  
 To Dr B. he had recourse.  
 A strict regime - six pints a day -  
 Soon saw him galloping on his way.

The King, to show his gratitude,  
 Declared, "This ale shall e'er be brewed!"  
 For proof of what the King had said,  
 Look out for the sign with the Doctor's head.  
 In Cambridge town where scholars dwell,  
 Of Butler's Ale they oft do tell.  
 It helps them study and makes them think  
 Of dedicating their lives to drink.

But what's the secret of Butler's Ale?  
Why does its magic never fail?  
Why does everyone to it haste?  
What ingredients give it its taste?  
Polypodium, agrimony,  
Scurvy grass, senna and caraway -  
They're all ground up in a mortar of stone  
Then put in a barrel and left alone.

In churches up and down the land  
Choirs' voices were not so grand.  
Now hymns are sung with fine regale  
After a quart of Butler's Ale.  
Singing this song is making me dry,  
So I'll leave you now with one last cry:  
"Good health to Butler, and to his ale,  
May all who sup it ever prevail".



*Dr William Butler was Physician to James the 1<sup>st</sup>, but is best remembered for his ale!  
The sign above can be found in Moorgate, London.*