Martin Said to His Man

William Chappell, in "Popular Music of the Olden Time" (1859) gives a text of this drinking song. About tales told and odd things seen when under the influence. Chappell notes:

"This tune is in Queen Elizabeth's Virginal Book, and it is one of the Freemen's Songs in Deuteromelia, 1609. It was entered on the books of the Stationer's Register as a ballad in 1588, when Thomas Orwyn had a license to print it."

"Fie" is a genteel way from Elizabethan times to say "bullshit!"

clouting up = patching up, shoon = shoes.

Jesus gave St Peter the ability to walk on water (Matthew 14) - so St Peter's shoon are magic shoes

Martin said to his man, *fie, man, fie*
Martin said to his man, w*ho's the fool now?*
Martin said to his man, fill thou the cup and I the can
Thou hast well drunken man, who's the fool now?

I saw the man in the moon, *fie, man, fie.*
I saw the man in the moon, w*ho's the fool now?*
I saw the man in the moon, clouting up St. Peter's shoon

I saw the hare chase the hound, *fie, man, fie* <repeat> w*ho's the fool now?*
Twenty miles above the ground

I saw a goose wring a hog, *fie, man, fie* <repeat> w*ho's the fool now?*
<repeat> Saw a snail bite a dog

I Saw a mouse chase a cat, *fie, man, fie* <repeat> w*ho's the fool now?*
<repeat> Saw the cheese eat a rat

I saw a flea heave a tree, *fie, man, fie* <repeat> w*ho's the fool now?*
<repeat> Forty miles out to sea

I saw a snail drive a nail, *fie, man, fie* <repeat> w*ho's the fool now?*
<repeat> From Petersfield unto Hale

I saw a maid milk a bull, *fie, man, fie* <repeat> w*ho's the fool now?*
<repeat> Every pull a bucket full

<repeat first verse>