

S A I N T F R A N C I S A N D T H E

=====

R O B B E R S .

=====

L. Mulder - v. Lennep.

(Two little girls are going through the wood. They have been to the cloister and got some bread for their mother.
In the distance they see the robbers).

Girl 1: Look there. The robbers.
Girl 2: Quick. This way. Then the robbers won't see us.

(But the robbers have seen them already since a long time.)

Robber 1: Oh these girls!
Robber 2: Look how they run.
Robber 3: They think that they can run away from us.
Robber 1: This way through the bushes. Then we'll meet them.

(The robbers creep through the bushes and suddenly they stand face to face with the frightened girls).

Robber 2: Good afternoon young ladies.

Girl 2: Oh the robbers.

Robber 3: What are you hiding behind your back?

Girl 1: A loaf of bread for our mother.
Girl 2: You won't take it.

Robber 1: Of course we'll take it.
We are robbers you know.

Girl 1: But you won't rob us.

Robber 2: Now for this time we'll not do it. Run away.

(The girls run away. But the third robber cries out to them:)

Robber 3: Where did you get that loaf?

Girl 2: At the cloister.

Robber 1: Will go to the cloister too and ask for bread.

Girl 1: But you won't get it for you are bad robbers.

Girl 2: Bad robbers don't get bread.

Robber 2: Did you ever.

Robber 3: Such impudence.

Robber 1: A pity we didn't take their bread.

Robber 2: We'll go to the cloister and claim it.

Robber 3: They must give it us.

CHoir: The three robbers go to the cloister, boom on the gate and cry ;

Robber 1: We want bread.

Robber 2: We demand bread.

Robber 3: We must have it immediately.

Gate - keeper:

What is the matter? What has happened?

Robber 1: We want bread.

Robber 2: We demand bread.

Robber 3: We must have it im.....

(Hij maakt zijn zin niet af, want de abt komt toevallig aan en ze zijn toch onder de indruk van zijn statige verschijning.)

Guardian: What is the matter - Can't you speak?

(De rovers mompelen:)

Robber 1: We want bread.

Robber 2: We demand bread.

Robber 3: We must have it immediately.

Guardian: What? We must give you bread - You - Robbers. You who never work and only steal. Go away and never come back here again.

(De rovers druipen af. Na een tijd:)

Robber 1: Ho - ho.

Robber 2: He is friendly.

Robber 3: He has a warm heart.

- . 0 . -

Guardian: This afternoon, just before your arrival, our robbers have been here. They didn't ask - they demanded bread.

Franciscus: What did you do?

Guardian: I chased them away of course.

Franciscus: What a pity! What a great pity!

Perhaps we could have helped them to better their ways and now you have driven them away.

Guardian: O Father Franciscus! Indeed! You are right. How can I redress this fault.

Franciscus: There is but one way. Perhaps.

Guardian: Yes - What is it -

Franciscus: Go to the wood. Try to find the robbers. Give them the pitcher wine and the sack bread that I received to day.

Guardian: Yes! Yes! I'll do so.

Franciscus: And acknowledge on your knees your fault.

Choir: So the guardian goes to the wood and looks for the robbers. At last he finds them. They are very sulky.

Robber 1: What do you come here for?

Robber 2: Have you come to spy on us?

Robber 3: Go away. We won't have you here.

Guardian: My dear brothers! Father Franciscus has shown me my wrong. He sends you this sack and this pitcher. On my knees I acknowledge my fault. I have sinned against God - in sinning against you.

Choir: He stands up and goes slowly away. The young robbers are completely stupefied.

Robber 1: How is it possible!

Robber 2: That holy man kneels for us!

Robber 3: The worst robbers there are.

Robber 1: We'll go to Father Franciscus.

Robber 2: We'll ask him to help us to better our life.

Robber 3: We won't be robbers any more.

-o