

# The Baker

There was one who was famed for the number of things

He forgot when he entered the ship:

His umbrella, his watch, all his jewels and rings,

And the clothes he had bought for the trip.

**He had forty-two boxes, all carefully packed,**

**With his name painted clearly on each:**

But, since he omitted to mention the fact,

They were all left behind on the beach.

The loss of his clothes hardly mattered, because

He had **seven coats** on when he came,

With three pairs of boots — but the worst of it was,

He had wholly forgotten his name.

He would answer to “Hi!” or to any loud cry,

Such as “**Fry me!**” or “**Fritter my wig!**”

To “What-you-may-call-um!” or “What-was-his-name!”

But especially “Thing-um-a-jig!”

While, for those who preferred a more forcible word,

He had different names from these:

His intimate friends called him “**Candle-ends,**”

And his enemies “**Toasted-cheese.**”

“His form is ungainly — his intellect small —”

(So the Bellman would often remark)

“But his courage is perfect! And that, after all,

Is the thing that one needs with a Snark.”

He would joke with hyenas, returning their stare

With an impudent wag of the head:

And he once went a walk, paw-in-paw, with a bear,

“Just to keep up its spirits,” he said.

He came as a Baker: but owned, when too late —

And it drove the poor Bellman half-mad —

**He could only bake Bridecake — for which, I may state,**

**No materials were to be had.**

Forty-two Boxes:

Thomas Cranmer's Forty-Two Articles.

Seven coats:

Seven recantations, which Cranmer recanted again at the stake in 1556.  
(<https://redd.it/4kmzfh>)

With his name painted clearly on each:

When Cranmer saw his end coming, he let his name stamped into all his writings.

“Baker”, “Fry me!”, “Fritter my wig!”, “Candle-ends,” “Toasted-cheese.”:

All terms are related to high temperatures.

Hyenas and bear:

No allusion to Cranmer, but to St. Macarius and St. Corbinian.

Bridecake:

No materials were to be had, because there were no brides on the ship.

Images (<https://redd.it/4iiuud>) on the following page:

The upper two images are segments from an anti catholic propaganda print *Faiths Victorie in Romes Crueltie* (top image) published by Thomas Jenner, c. 1630 which shows the burning of protestant martyrs, especially a scene depicting Thomas Cranmer burning his hand - before he burned himself at the stake.

(<https://redd.it/4ibj5w>)

The lower two images show a detail (lower left side) from Henry Holiday's illustration (lower right side) to the final chapter *The Vanishing* of Lewis Carroll's *The Hunting of the Snark* (published in the year 1876)

(<http://www.snrk.de/snarkhunt/#fit8>).

