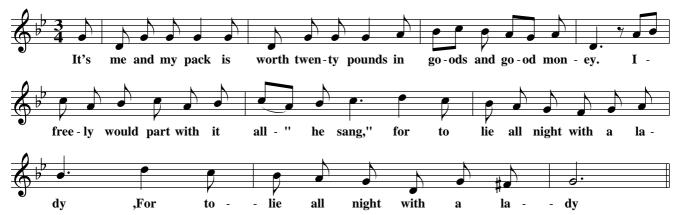
The Proud Pedlar

Billy Waggs, Red Lion, Orwell, RVW 13-06-1908



- 1.So merrily sings the Nightingale, so merrily sings the Jay So merrily sang the proud pedlar as he walked along the highway.
- 2."The bag on my back is worth twenty pounds in gold and good money I'd part with it all," the pedlar he sang, "for to lie all night with a lady."
- 3. The lady looked out of her window so high to hear the proud pedlar sing "Sing on sing on you bold pedlar the song you have lately begun."
- 4. The pedlar looked over his left shoulder. He was so neat and so trim. "I never have sung a song in my life I couldn't sing over again."
- 5. "The bag on my back is worth twenty pounds in gold and good money I'd part with it all", the pedlar sang, "for to lie all night with a lady."
- 6. The lady she took the bold pedlar's hand and led him into the hall She led him right into her bed chamber with her bed against the wall.
- 7. The Pedlar he lay with the lady all night until it was break of day Then he began to think of his pack that he had bargained away.
- 8."Here's twenty pounds", the pedlar he said, "to buy you fine clothes and rings Just give me back my pedlar's pack to earn my living again."
- 9."That wasn't the song you sang last night, the song you sang to me. I'm glad I've locked up your pedlar's pack and hidden away the key."
- 10."I'll make you rue," the pedlar said, "what you've just said to me. I'll go and stand in front of your gate till your husband comes home from sea."
- 11.Twas late in the night her husband came home and saw him stand at the gate. "Why are you standing here, he asked, O tell me why you wait."
- 12."Yesterday I baked a cake for thirty people and three I needed a mortar to grind my spice and I borrowed one from your lady.
- 13. Now the mortar belonged to your lady fair, but the pestle it was my own. But she has taken my pedlar's pack in payment for the loan."
- 14. "Come give him back his pedlar's pack. Such payment is far too great. O give it him back my lady fair then he'll go away from the gate."
- 15. "Go take your pack, you proud pedlar. Come take it back again. I never again will let a pedlar bold grind spice in a mortar of mine."
- 16."O that was well done," says the proud pedlar. "And it was well turned by me. For I've got my pack back again and lay all night with the lady.
- 17.By my rakish tricks I lost my pack, but my wits have won it again.
 And if I live for the next hundred years I will never go back there again!"