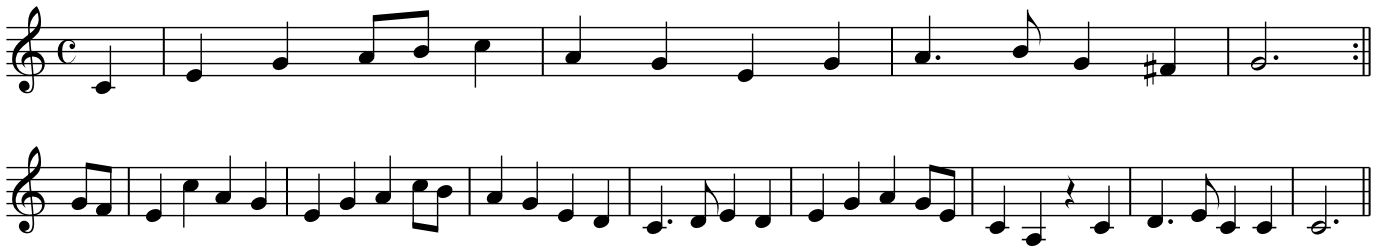


Sheffield Apprentice

Jim Austin 20th August 1906 Little Shelford collected by RVW



I was brought up in Sheffield but not of high degree
My parents doted on me, they had no child but me
I roamed about for pleasure where'er my fancy led
Till I was bound apprentice then all my joys they fled.

I did not like my master he did not use me well
I made a resolution not long with him to dwell
A wealthy rich young lady from London I met there
She offered me great wages to serve her for a year.

I had not been in London above a month or three
Before my lovely mistress grew very fond of me
She said "I've gold and silver I've houses and I've land
If you will marry me they'll be at your command"

"Oh no my loving mistress I cannot wed you now
For I have lately promised and made a solemn vow
To wed with lovely Polly, your pretty chambermaid
Excuse me, dearest mistress she has my heart betrayed."

She flew into a passion and turned away from me
Resolved for my presumption she'd make me dearly pay
A gold ring from her finger, as she was passing by
She slipped into my pocket, and for it I must die.

She swore that I had robbed her and quickly I was brought
To stand before the justice to answer for my fault
Long time I pleaded innocent but that was all in vain
She swore so false against me that I was sent to gaol.

Then at the next assizes I was condemned and cast
And presently the judge the fatal sentence passed
From thence to execution he brought me to the tree
So God reward my mistress, she's been the ruin of me.

All you that come to see me upon the day I die
Don't mock me on my downfall, but rather pity me.
Believe me that I'm innocent. I bid the world adieu.
Farewell my dearest Polly. I die for love of you.