

The Crafty Ploughboy

allegro non troppo

1. There was an old far-mer in Dev-on did dwell, He had a young son and to
him he did tell, "Go_ take yon-der cow up to Barn-sta-ple Fair: Tho'
Chorus
she's a good cow, I can her well spare. "Der-ry down, down, down, down, der-ry down. (Young)

2. Young Dan started off with the cow in a band,
To Barnstaple Fair as you all understand,
But alack at an ale-house he met with three men,
And he sold them the cow for nine pounds and ten.
3. There sat an old highwayman drinking his wine,
Said to himself "I will make that gold mine."
Quoth he "my young sir, if you're going my way,
Pray mount up behind, 'twill lighten the day."
4. They rode 'till they came to a very dark lane,
When the highwayman said "I do warn you quite plain,
To deliver your money without any strife,
Or else I will certainly take your sweet life."
5. Dan opened his coat and the money pulled out,
And on the green grass he did strew it about,
And while the old robber was filling his purse,
Young Dan saw his chance, rode off on his horse.
6. The highwayman shouted and swore he would fire,
But Dan crouch-ed low and rode off through the mire,
And back to his father safe home did he bring,
Horse, saddle and bridle, a very good thing.
7. They opened the saddle bags there to behold,
Five hundred good pounds in bright silver and gold,
With a brace of good pistols I'll swear and I'll vow,
"Why dang it!" said the farmer, "you've well sold the cow."

Source: Sung by unknown singer in Gloucestershire. Collected by Francis Collinson.