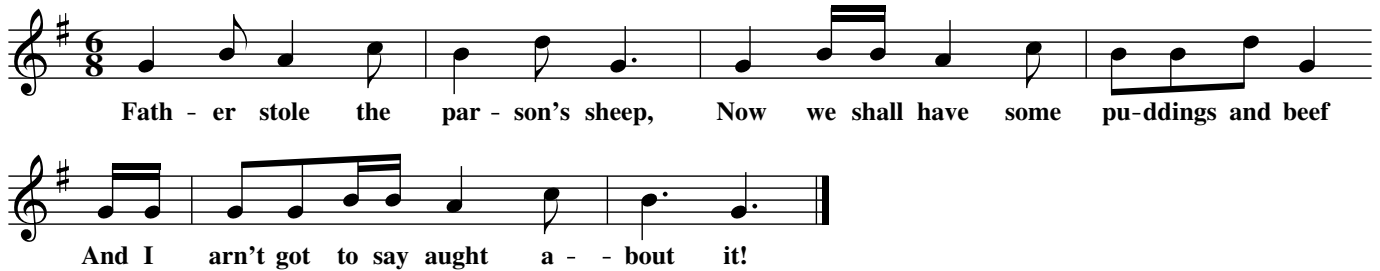


The Clergyman and the Boy

A clergyman lost his sheep. It was a great crime in those days - well you could be hung, couldn't you? And he couldn't find out who had committed the theft. So he met the village boy who was supposed to be the village idiot, and this boy was singing -



Fath - er stole the par - son's sheep, Now we shall have some pu-ddings and beef
And I arn't got to say aught a - - bout it!

Well, he met the clergyman, still singing. He said "Look here my lad. If you come to church next Sunday I'll give you a new suit and half a crown if you'll stand up in front of the congregation and tell the congregation what you've just told me" and the boy said he would. So they got him all in the church, you see, and then it was time for him to say it, I suppose after the sermon. He said, "Now this young lad's going to tell you one of the most atrocious crimes that has ever been committed" and the boy said -



'Twas in the mer - ry month of May I saw our par - son blithe and gay
Roll - ing our Mol - - ly in the hay, And I don't say aught a - - bout it
This brand new suit and half a crown was all gid I'd say aught a - - bout it!

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Source: Mrs Moabey, Quenington, 1957, collected by Brian Ballinger