

Jockey to the Fair



1. 'Twas on the morn of sweet May Day, when Na _ ture pain _ ted all _ things gay, taught



birds to sing and lambs to play and deck _ the mea _ dows fair. _ _ _ Young



Jock - ey ear - ly in _ _ the morn, ar - - ose and tripped it oe'r _ _ the lawn; his



Sun-day coat _ the youth put on, for Jen-ny had vowed a - way _ to run, with Jock-ey to _ the



fair. _ _ For Jen-ny had vowed a - way _ to run, with Jock-ey to _ the fair.

2. The cheerful parish bells had rung; with eager steps he trudged along.
Sweet flowery garlands round him hung, which shepherds used to wear.
He tapped the window "Haste, my dear". Jenny, impatient, cried "Who's there?"
"'Tis I, my love, and no-one near:
Step gently down, you've nought to fear, with Jockey to the fair;
Step gently down, you've nought to fear, with Jockey to the fair."
3. "My Dad and Mam are fast asleep, my brother's up and with the sheep,
And will you still your promise keep, which I have heard you swear,
And will you ever constant prove?" "I will, by all the powers above,
And ne'r deceive my charming dove.
Dispel these doubts and haste my love, with Jockey to the fair;
Dispel these doubts and haste my love, with Jockey to the fair."
4. "Behold the ring", the shepherd cried: "Will Jenny be my charming bride?
Let Cupid be our happy guide, and Hymen meet us there."
Then Jockey did his vows renew: he would be constant, would be true.
His word was pledged; away she flew,
With cowslips sparkling with the dew, with Jockey to the fair;
With cowslips sparkling with the dew, with Jockey to the fair.
5. Soon they did meet a joyful throng: their gay companions blithe and young.
Each joined the dance, each joined the song, to hail that happy pair
What two were e'er so fond as they; all bless the kind propitious day:
The smiling morn and blooming May,
When lovely Jenny ran away, with Jockey to the fair;
When lovely Jenny ran away, with Jockey to the fair.

Source: Sung by Archer Goode, Cheltenham; Collected by Gwilym Davies, 4 January 1975.

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