

High-Low Well (The Holy Well)

(a)

O as we holl-ered out As we fell out As we holl-ered out so wide, [Sweet

Je - - sus he asked his own mo-ther dear if he ___ could go out to play.]

(a) Variant

The image shows a musical score for the song 'High-Low Well (The Holy Well)'. It consists of three staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the lyrics 'O as we holl-ered out As we fell out As we holl-ered out so wide, [Sweet'. The second staff continues with 'Je - - sus he asked his own mo-ther dear if he ___ could go out to play.]. The third staff is labeled '(a) Variant' and shows a short musical phrase with a sharp sign on the second line of the staff.

["To play, to play, dear child, "she did say.
"It's time that you were gone.
And don't let me hear of complaint upon you
At night when you come home."]

"Dear mother, I have been to a merry little town
As far as the high-low well
And there I did saw some the finest children then
That ever any tongue could tell."

I asked them children could I play along with them
And they say "Yes, quite well,
But you are nothing else but a mild Marys child
Born down in an oxen stall."

Sweet Jesus he turned himself short round
Neither to laugh nor to smile
And the water did fall from sweet Jesus's eyes,
Like the water from the sky.

"If you are nothing else but a mild Mary's child,
Born down in an ox-filled stall,
Then you shall be the king and the crown of heaven
And the ruler above us all."

["Sweet Jesus, go down to the yonder town
As far as the High-Low well
And take away those sinful souls
And dip them deep in hell"]

["Nay, nay, " sweet Jesus mildly said,
"Nay, nay, that must not be,
For there are too many sinful souls
Crying out for the help of me."]

Source: Sung by Wiggy Smith at Wiggy's caravan, Elmstone Hardwicke, 13th April, 1995.
Recorded by Paul Burgess.

Notes: Mr Smith's text has been filled out from other sources. Extra words are in brackets.

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