

The Dilly Song

I will sing the twelve-O; what is the twelve-O? Twelve the twelve a - pos-tle ships,
Eleven the ele-ven ben-cher-ships and ten, the ten com - mand-ments; Nine the nine bright shi-ners
eight are the gib-ble ran-gers, Seven the seven stars in the sky and six the six proud walk-ers;
Five are the sym-bols in my bos-om, four the gos-pel prea-chers; Three, three, the
ri-ders; _____ Two and two the li-ly white boys cloth-ed all in green-O _____
When the one is left a-lone it ev-er more shall be so.

I will sing the twelve-O; what is the twelve-O?
Twelve the twelve apostle ships,
Eleven the eleven bencherships and ten, the ten commandments;
Nine the nine bright shiners, eight are the gibble rangers,
Seven the seven stars in the sky and six the six proud walkers;
Five are the symbols in my bosom, four the gospel preachers;
Three, three, the riders;
Two and two the lily white boys clothed all in green-O;
When the one is left alone it ever more shall be so.

Source: Sung by John Bradley at Coates, Glos on 31 March 1912. Collected by Cecil Sharp