

## (In Fair) Oxford City

'Twas of a dam - sel in Ox - ford ci - ty, the truth to you I'm \_\_\_ going to tell. She  
by a ser \_\_\_ vant man was cour \_ ted. [and] \_ he oft times told \_\_\_ her he loved her well.

She loved him too, but at a distance  
She did not seem to be so fond.  
He said, "My dear, I'm sure you slight me.  
I'm sure you love some other man."

"If not, my dear, why can't we marry  
And that would end all grief and strife?,  
I'd work for you both late and early  
If you would be my wedded wife."

She said, "My dear, we're too young to marry  
Too young to claim a marriage bed,  
For when we're married we're bound for ever,  
And then, my dear, all joys are fled."

She was invited to some dancing.  
To the dancing she did go.  
This jealous young man soon followed after,  
Where he prepared for her overthrow.

He saw her dancing with another,  
When jealousy ran in his mind.  
For to destroy his own true lover  
This jealous young man he felt inclined.

So then the poison he prepared,  
And mixed it up with a glass of wine.  
He gave the liquor unto his lover.  
She drank it up most cheerfully.

Soon as she drank it, she began to alter,  
"Oh, take me home, my dear" said she.  
For the glass of liquor you have just give me  
Has made me very ill indeed."

As they were walking home together,  
These words he thus to her did say,  
"I gave you the poison all in your liquor,  
To take your tender life away."

"And I have drunk of the same, my jewel,  
And I shall die as well as you.  
So in each other's arms let us die together.  
Young men, beware of jealousy."

Source: William Hedges (76) at Chipping Campden Sept 10th 1909. Collected by Cecil J. Sharp

Notes: Sharp collected no words for this song from Mr Hedges. Words are from a George Hammond MSS with the note "Singer unknown but presumed Gloucestershire."

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