

The Jovial Foresters

1. For we are the Jo - vial Fo - re - sters, Our trade is get - ting coal, You
ne - - ver knew a Fo - - re - ster But was a hear - - ty soul; Tho
black we are when at our work, You'd take us for some smo - king Turk, When
Chorus
that is done, We're ripe for fun, to laugh and chat with a - ny one, For
we are the Jo - - vial Fo - - res - ters, Our trade is get - ting coal, You
ne - - ver knew a Fo - - res - ter But was a hear - - ty soul.

2. Among mankind there miners are Of every degree
But he who undermines his friend
Is far more black than we.
He's black at heart you need not doubt,
And that's a stain will ne'er wash out
But we are true to church and King
Therefore let us merrily sing

That we are Jovial Foresters, etc

3. As to the Church, it must be owned
To that we are no foes,
For while we undermine the Dean
We warm the Bishop's nose.
In vain may Chloe turn the spit,
Nor could the cook your fancy hit,
Nor for the Mayor the feast prepare,
Were it not for the toil and care

Of us, the Jovial Foresters, etc

4. The courtier undermines the State,
As to the Doctor, he
Your constitution undermines
But to prolong his fee.
The lawyer undermines your purse,
But none of them can work like us,
For we are bent with full intent,
To raise the coal and give content

For we are the Jovial Foresters, etc

5. To raise the coal is all our aim;
For that the soldier fights;
For that the player acts his part;
For tthat the poet writes.
For that the barrister doth plead;
For that the ladies give their aid.
The parson prays the coal to raise,
We're colliers all in different ways;

But we are the Jovial Foresters, etc

6. To Foresters then drink a health,
Wherever they may be,
For they are the lads who free from care
Through life jog merrily.
May plenty reign throughout the land,
That bread they may have at their command;
And this I think, while you've the chink,
You never will refuse to drink,

To us the Jovial Foresters, etc.

Source: "An ancient song" Dedicated by permission to Edward Protheroe, Esq.
Published by the Three Forest Newspapers, at Cinderford, Coleford and Lydney, Glos.
(Date Unknown)