

The Shepherds' Song

1. We shep-herds are the best of men, That e'er trod Eng-lish ground; When
we come to an ale-house We va-lue not a crown. We
spend our mon-ey free-ly, We pay be-fore we go; - - - - - Ahorus
There's no ale on the wolds Where the stor-my winds do blow, We
spend our mon-ey free-ly, We pay be-fore we go
There's no ale on the wolds Where the stor-my winds do blow

1. We shepherds are the best of men,
That e'er trod English ground;
When we come to an alehouse
We value not a crown.
We spend our money freely,
We pay before we go;
There's no ale on the wolds
Where the stormy winds do blow
Chorus.--We spend, &c

2. A man that is a shepherd
Does need a valiant heart,
He must not be faint-hearted,
But boldly do his part.
He must not be faint-hearted,
Be it rain, or frost, or snow,
With no ale on the wolds
Where the stormy winds do blow.
Chorus.--He must not, etc.

3. When I kept sheep on Blockley Hills
It made my heart to ache
To see the ewes hang out their tongues
And hear the lambs to bleat;
Then I plucked up my courage
And o'er the hills did go,
And penned them in the fold
While the stormy winds do blow.
Chorus.--The I plucked up, etc.

4. As soon as I had folded them
I turned me back in haste
Unto a jovial company
Good liquor for to taste;
For drink and jovial company
They are my heart's delight,
Whilst my sheep lie asleep
All the fore-part of the night.
Chorus.--For drink and jovial company, etc.

Source: Published in "English County Songs" by Broadwood and Fuller Maitland (1893), with the note "From FF. Scarlett Potter, Esq., Halford, Shipton-on-Stour" and the following explanation "The first verse was taken from the recitation of an old lady born at Stoke, Gloucestershire, in 1793: The remaining verses were recovered from Thomas Caldicote, shepherd, of Ebrington, Gloucestershire. Blockley, referred to in verse 3, is in the parish adjoining Ebrington."