

When I was young and in my prime Just twenty-four years old. I spent my time in vanity Along with the ladies so bold.

I weared the ruffles all round my wrist A cane all in each hand. No farmer's son could excel it No farmer in the land.

I kept a pack of hounds my boys And servants to wait all on me. I do intend my money to spend And that you can plainly see.

I steered my coach to whips on I went Some pleasure all for to spy. And there I spent ten thousand pounds Just by the daylight of one day. I steered my coach right back again My coppers I did run small. But now I'm a brokendown gentleman And that a'nt the worst of all.

The landlord he came to my house And baileys he brought there. He stole away my coach and six And said he would have me.

My wife she sadly pitied me My children all round me did cry. I'll remember the days in gaol I lay Unto the day I die.

Source: William Hedges, Chipping Campden. Collected by Cecil Sharp, 28 August 1909

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