

Green Brooms



1. There was an old man and he lived in the west, And his trade it was sell-ing green brooms —



And he had but one son and his name that was John — And he lay in bed — till



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1. There was an old man and he lived in the west
And his trade it was selling green brooms
And he had but one son and his name that was John
And he lay in bed till it was noon,
And he lay in bed till it was noon,
2. And the old man was vexed and sadly perplexed
And he said he would fire the room
If John didn't rise and sharpen his knives
And away to the wood to cut brooms, green brooms.
3. Then up John arose and downstairs he came
And settled himself like one [blank]
He stamped and he said 'Oh never no more
No more to the wood to cut brooms, green brooms.'
4. Then he started on a road he knew very well
Till he came to some castle to fill
Then he whooped and he bawled and he loudly cried
'Pretty maid, do you want any brooms, green brooms?'
5. Then the lady being up at her window so high
She saw the young man with his brooms
She called to her maid and this she did say
'Call in that young man with his brooms, his brooms.'
6. And first in the kitchen and then in the hall
And then in the lady's fine [room?]
She laughed and she smiled 'Will you leave off your trade
And marry a lady in [bloom?]'?
7. Then a license was sent for without delay
And married they were in the room
Now they live at their ease and kiss when they please
And he got it by selling green brooms.

Source: Mary Anne Roberts, Winchcombe, 8th April 1909, collected by Cecil Sharp

Notes: Percy Grainger and Eliza Wedgwood collected this song from the same singer on 31st July 1909.
In Grainger's audio recording the G in bar 3 is G#.

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