

The Devil and the Apple (The Poor Old Couple)

1. It was of Tom Clark and he lived there - by, and
he should go and lie with I, 'And so I will'. said he ____ 'So I will _ said he.'

2. He hadn't been there scarce half an hour
'Fore a rap-a-tap-tap came at the door
'Who is there?' said he
And 'Who is there?' said he.
3. 'This is my husband', she replied,
'And thee must get under the bed to lie'.
'And so I will', said he,
'And so I will' said he.
4. She went downstairs to let him in.
She opened the door and her husband (i) came in.
'What have been the matter?', said he.
'What have been the matter?' said he.
5. 'I have been ill since thee's been gone
Scarcely able to stay at home.'
'Oh my poor wife,' said he.
'Oh my poor wife,' said he.
6. 'I think an apple will cure me.
Go and fetch me one from yonders tree'.
'So I will', said he,
'And so I will', said he.
7. As Jack was clambering up the tree,
Up jumped Tom Clark and away went he.
'Very well done', said he,
'And very well done', said he.

(i) Original had "The Devil". This was probably a mistake.

Source: Sung by George Cook, Stow-on-the-Wold. Learned at Redditch 62 years previously.
Collected by James Madison Carpenter sometime between 1927 and 1935.