

Jolly Joe the Collier's Son

1. I am Jolly Joe the poor coll - ier's son, In Hill - borough town I dwell
I court - ed lass - es many — a one, And I loved them all right well
I court - ed Nan - cy and young Kate Bux - - om young Nell — ie too
But Rach - ael's the girl that I do a - dore, And that you soon shall know

2. Come all you colliers in this row who delight in a bonny lass,
Who loves to drink good ale that's brown and sparkles in the glass.
My parents they do frown on me and say that I am to blame
For keeping Rachel's company, who liveth in Mash Lane.
3. As I rose up one morning soon at the dawning of the day
I love for to hear the small birds sing and the lambs to skip and play.
I took a walk in Hillborough town down by the Bulstrode Mill,
And who should I spy but my own true love with Jack of Hemalong Hill.
4. I hid myself behind the shed a-distant where they were,
He gave her kisses one, two and three not knowing I was there.
So boldly I stepped up to them saying, "Rogue! What hast thou done?
I'm Jolly Joe the poor collier's son. Thou must either fight or run."
5. She said "Here, Joe, give me thy hand, no more of this behave!
I'll be your servant slave and wife until I goes to the grave."
And then to church young Rachael went, 'twas sore against her will.
Says "Maidens all, pity my downfall with Jack of Hemalong Hill."

Source: William Shepherd, aged 93, Winchcombe. Collected by Percy Grainger 5th April 1908
and by Cecil Sharp on 8 April 1909 (tune only).

Notes: Verse 2 provided from a broadside.