

The Thresherman and the Squire

Clarke Lonkhurst

Collected by Cecil Sharp, Hamstreet, 23rd September 1908

Cecil Sharp MSS, Folk Words CJS2/9/1774, Folk Tunes CJS2/10/1921

Roud 19

There was a no- ble gen- tle- man who liv- ed down in Kent Close
by there lived a thresh- er- man whose fam- i- ly was great_ Whose
fam- i- ly was great_ and a- most of them was sma- ll and
no- thing but hard la- bour for to main- tain them all

1. There was a noble gentleman who lived down in Kent
Close by there lived a thresherman whose family was great
Whose family was great and most of them was small
And nothing but hard labour for to maintain them all.
2. My wife she's always willing to join in the yoke
We live just like two turtle doves each other don't provoke
But times are very hard sir and we are very poor
We can scarce keep the wolf and the bears from the door.
3. Well done you noble thresherman you speak well of your wife
Now I will give you something that will last you all your life.
Here's forty five good acres of land I'll give to thee
To maintain you and your wife and your sweet family.

4. God bless that noble gentleman, he's dead and he's gone
I hope his soul in heaven may rest amongst the upper end
The best are gone before us and we're left here to mend
So we must follow after them as well as we can.