

The Thresher Man

Mr Barling

Collected by Francis Collinson, South Willesborough, 3rd December 1942

Francis Collinson Manuscript Collection COL/1/15

Roud 19

It's of 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- tho' the most of them were small_ And he'd
noth- ing but hard la- bour to main- tain them all

1. It's of a noble gentleman who lived down in Kent
Close by there lived a thresher man whose family was great
Whose family was great, though the most of them were small
And he'd nothing but hard labour to maintain them all.
2. At times when he comes home from work as tired as tired can be
He takes his youngest child and dances on his knee
While others they come round him with their sweet flattering toys
And that's the only comfort that a poor man enjoys.
3. The noble gentleman he met the thresher man one day
And boldly stepped up to him and these words to him did say
You have in all large family; we know it to be true
And how is it you maintain them so well as you do?

4. Well I can reap and mow and it's I can plough and sow
And sometimes unto hedging and to ditching I do go
There's nothing comes amiss to me, the harrow or the plough
And so I do maintain them by the sweat of my brow.
5. My wife she is willing to join in the yoke
We live just like two turtle doves, each other don't provoke
The times are very hard sir, and we are very poor,
And can scarce keep the wolf and the bear from the door.
6. Well done, you noble thresherman, you speak well of your wife
I will make you live happy all the rest of your life
There's forty five good acres of land I'll give to thee
To maintain you and your wife and your sweet family.
7. God bless that noble gentleman; he's dead and he is gone.
I hope his soul's in heaven, to gain the latter 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.