

The Oak and the Ivy

Mr Wanstall

Collected by Francis Collinson, Aldington, November 1942

Francis Collinson Manuscript Collection COL/1/19

Roud 21860

The image shows a musical score for the song 'The Oak and the Ivy'. It consists of four staves of music in a single system, all written on a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'In the depths of the forest an old oak grew, The pride of the green-wood there. On its'. The second staff continues with 'branch- es the i- vy her mant- le threw, When the for- est- trees were bare. She'. The third staff continues with 'clung to his side like a stur- dy bride, With her shin- ing- leaves so green, Made him'. The fourth staff concludes with 'blythe and gay throu' the live- long day, In the midst of a win- ter scene.'

1. In the depths of the forest an old oak grew,
The pride of the greenwood there.
On its branches the ivy her mantle threw,
When the forest trees were bare.
She clung to his side like a sturdy bride,
With her shining leaves so green,
Made him blythe and gay throu' the livelong day,
In the midst of a winter scene.
2. The oak of the forest told me true
And I echo his words in song
That the ivy his branches made fair to view
While the oak made the ivy strong
It was a sermon good in the deep old wood
For had each for itself grown there
The plant alone had no beauty shown

When the boughs of the tree had been bare

[Chorus]

3. Then let's copy the oak and the ivy green
And, like Britons, go hand in hand
As firm as our oaks may our sins be seen
In the cause of our native land
May our daughters fair like the ivy share
In the arms of a parent tree
While we all unite in our strength and might
For our homes and for liberty.

Written by Joseph Edwards Carpenter, 1813-1885, and published in *The Romance of the Dreamer, and Other Poems* (1841). Collinson refers to a chorus after verse 2, but does not give any indication as to its words. In Carpenter's original, the chorus is

Oh long may the oak and the ivy stand

The pride and the boast of our native land

changing in the final verse to

As long as the oak and the ivy stand...