

58b Sheffield Apprentice - Mrs Howard

I was brought up in Shef - field, a place of high de - gree; my par - ents do - ted
on me; they had no child but me. I roamed a - bout for plea - sure just
where my fan - cy led, till I was bound ap - pren - tice and all my joys were fled.

1
I was brought up in Sheffield, a place of high degree;
my parents doted on me; they had no child but me.
I roamed about for pleasure just where my fancy led,
till I was bound apprentice and all my joys were fled.

2
I did not like my master, he did not use me well.
I made a resolution, not long with him to dwell.
I made a resolution not long with him to stay,
steering my course for London, and cursèd be the day.

3
I had not been in London scarce one month, two or three
before my honoured Mistress grew very fond of me.
She said, 'I've gold, I've silver, I've houses and I've land
if you will marry me they shall be at your command'.

4
'Oh no, dear honoured Mistress, I cannot wed you now,
for I have lately promised likewise a solemn vow
to wed with dearest Polly, your handsome chambermaid.
Excuse me, honoured Mistress, she has my heart betrayed.'

5
She flew into a passion and turned away from me
saying, by Him who made her she'd be revenged on me.
Her gold ring from her finger, as she was passing by,
she slipped it in my pocket, and for it I must die.

6
For that before the Justice, the Justice I was brought
and there before the justice I answered for my fault.
Long time I pleaded innocent, but that was all in vain,
she swore so false against me and I was sent to gaol.

7
Then our Royal Assizes were drawing on apace,
and presently upon me the Judge a sentence passed.
The place of execution they brought me to a tree,
and God forgive my mistress for she has wrongèd me.

8
The day of execution, all on that fatal day,
I prayed the people round me, 'O pray come pity me.
Do not laugh at my downfall for I bid this world adieu.
Farewell my dearest Polly, I died for love of you.'