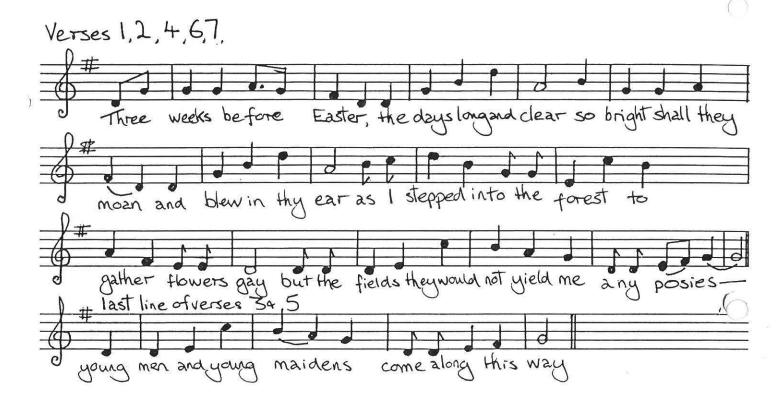
## Three weeks before Easter



## THREE WEEKS BEFORE EASTER

Most of the oral versions of this song contain about six verses and all have varying texts. Ted Nevill's verse six compares interestingly with verse ten of the Roxburgh Broadside ballad.

Three weeks before Easter the day long and clear So bright shall they moan and blew in they ear As I stepped into the forest to gather flowers gay But the fields would not yield me any posies

Young men and young maidens to church they do go Young men .....they do make a fine show And I follow wide after with my heart full of woe Was to hear how my false lover was guarded

I saw her my false lover all in the church stand With a ring on her finger a glove in her hand And the parson he married her and the words he did say Young men and young maidens come along this way

Young men .....from the church they do go SAME AS ABOVE

I saw my false lover sat down at meat And I sat my self by her but none could I eat For the sight of my false lover was better than meat

I saw my false lover take the candle to bed With tears in my eyes that dazzled my sight I pick up my hat and I wished them goodnight And adieu to all false lovers

O dig me a grave both long wide and deep Trim it all over with flowers so sweet That I may lie down and take a long sleep And that sleep will last me for ever