THE GREEN MOSSY BANKS OF THE LEA

Vaughan Williams wrote the first verse in full in his manuscript with the following notes

See Bunting A pretty maid milking a cow

See Kidson

For rest of words see ballad sheets

He then followed with Mr Broomfield's variants of the Such broadsheet. If these are matched with the song as printed in FSJ Vol 8 it seems that he has used most of Broomfield's variants in the printed text

curiosity

where the pure winds etc

- The winds and sweet breezes blow

purling waters

- pure and waters - some godder

Some goddess Spirts

- sperrits

- curiosity

erected

- did erect

American

- your

like adorable gentle Matildia - likewise Lord Becker(?) Matilda

('That's how I've always sung it'

Last verse omitted by B

When first in this country a stranger Curosity caused me to roam over Europe I resolved to be a stranger When I left Philadelphia my home

We quickly sailed over to England Where forms of great beauty do shine Till at length I beheld a fair damsel And I wish in my heart she was mine

One morning I careless did ramble Where the winds and sweet breezes did blow It was down by a clear crystal river Where the sweet purling waters did flow

'Twas there I espied a fair creature Some Goddess appearing to be As she rose from the reeds by the water On the green mossy banks of the lea

I step't up and wished her good morning When her fair cheeks did blush like a rose Said I The Green meadows are charming Your guardian I'll be if you choose

She said Sir I ne'er want a guardian Young man you are a stranger to me And yonder my father is coming O'er the green mossy banks of the lea

I waited till up came her father And plucked up my spirits once more I said if this is your fair daughter That beautiful girl I adore

Ten thousand a year is my fortune And a lady your daughter shall be She shall ride with her chariot and horses O'er the green mossy banks of the lea

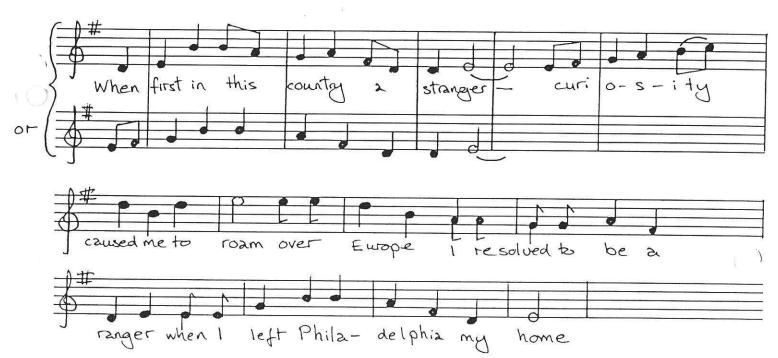
Then they welcomed me home to their cottage Soon after in wedlock to join And there I errected a castle In grandeur and splendour to shine

And now the American stranger All pleasure and pastime can see With adorable gentle Matilda On the green mossy banks of the lea

So it's all pretty maidens attention No matter how poor you may be There's many a poor girl as handsome As those with a large property

By flattery let no one deceive you Who knows but your fortune may be Like that young gentle Matilda On the green mossy banks of the lea





On this page of Vaughan Williams manuscript he makes these notes about Mr Pottipher

Mr Pottipher made the following remarks about the origin of folksong

When ever there was a murder or anything some one would be sure to make a ballad on it*

Asked who made the tunes he said if you can get the words it's easy to find a tune

If you can get the words the Almighty sends you a tune P said he had invented tunes himself but would not sing me any

*see the notes for Mrs Horsnell