

I'M A ROVER

The comparative text that I have used for this song was noted by Frank Kidson.⁽¹⁾ It was very popular on broadsides by the London Presses.

Vaughan Williams' last verse is the same as the broadside version by Such No 288 (Baring Gould Collection Vol 7). Ted Nevill's As I was passing over dulci more is given by Such as Dulcimore.

I am a rover and that's well known
I'm just a going to leave my home
Leaving my parents to sigh and to mourn
Farewell my bonny girl till I return

Oh I sat down and wrote a song
I wrote it wide and I wrote it long
And every line I shed a tear
And every verse I cried Polly dear

Am I single or am I free
O am I bound for marry thee
O a married life you soon shall see
Contented life shows no jealousy

As I was passing over dulci more (moor)
There I lost sight of my true love's door
My head did ache and my eyes went blind
Thinking of that bonny girl I left behind

I wish I wish 'tis all in vain
I wish my heart I was a maid again
A maid again I never shall be
Not till apples grow on an orange tree

I am a rover

The image shows two staves of handwritten musical notation. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics written below the staff are: "I am a rover and 'tis well known I am just a going to leave my home lea". The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. The lyrics are: "ving my parents to sigh and mourn farewell my bonny girl till I return". The staff ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

(1) Traditional Tunes F Kidson