

# In Jessies City

The image shows two staves of handwritten musical notation. Both staves are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 6/8 time signature. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the song, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

In Jessies city oh there did dwell a postman boy I loved so well, 'twas  
he that stole my heart away and now with me he will not stay

IN JESSIES CITY

The words to this song were written by the same hand as the texts of Pottipher's songs. Vaughan Williams noted in his manuscript 'She learnt this at home (Chigwell) where they often used to have the neighbours come in and sing in the evenings. Her mother also knew a song called The Spotted Cow but she could not remember it.'

The text here is the same as that printed in the JFS. An interesting comparison of this song appears in Cox's Folk songs of the South under the title of The Butcher's Boy. This was communicated by Miss Sallie Evans, Elkins Randolph County 1917 and obtained from Miss Nellie Maddix who got it from her mother who learnt it from her parents. In this song the first line runs

In Jersey City where I did dwell  
the rest of the words being the same as the Essex variant.

In Jessies City oh there did dwell  
A post man boy I loved so well  
'Twas he that stole my heart away  
And now with me he will not stay

There is an inn in this same town  
Which my love goes and sits himself down  
And takes a strange girl on his knee  
He tells her what he doesn't tell me

It's grief to me I'll tell you for why  
Because she has more gold than I  
But needed time her gold shall fly  
And she shall be as poor as I

I went upstairs to make my bed  
And nothing to my mother said  
O daughter O daughter what is the matter  
O daughter what is the matter with thee

O mother mother you do not know  
What grief and sorrow comes from joy  
Go get a chair and set me down  
And a pen and ink to write it down

Her father he came home at night  
Saying wherehas my daughter gone  
He went upstairs and the door he broke  
And found her hanging on a rope

He took his knife and cut her down  
Within her breast these lines were found  
O what a foolish maid was I  
To hang myself for a postman's boy

Go dig my grave both long wide and deep  
Place a marble stone at my head and feet  
And on my breast a turtle dove  
To show the world I died for love