

Oh! Madam I Will Give to Thee

Source info:

Singer: Jane Gulliver

Place: Combe Florey

Collected: June 1905

Collector: Henry and Robert Hammond

Tune noted by: H. A. Jeboult

MSS Source: <http://library.efdss.org/archives/>

MSS Ref: HAM/2/2/24

1. Oh! madam, I will give to thee a new silken gown,
With five and thirty flounces a-bobbing to the ground,
If you'll be my love, my joy and my dear,
If you'll go a-walking with me anywhere.
2. No, indeed, I won't accept of you new silken gown,
With five and thirty flounces a-bobbing to the ground,
I won't be your love, nor your joy, nor your dear,
I won't go a-walking with you anywhere.
3. Oh! madam, I will give thee a little set of bells,
For to call up your servants, when you're not very well,
If you'll be my love, my joy and my dear,
If you'll go a-walking with me anywhere.
4. No, indeed, I won't accept of your little set of bells,
For to call up my servants, when I'm not very well,
I won't be your love, nor your joy, nor your dear,
I won't go a-walking with you anywhere.
5. Old man John, what can the matter be?
You see, I love this lady but she won't love me;
She won't be my love, nor my joy, nor my dear,
She won't go a-walking with me anywhere.
6. Oh! you court her, master, you court her never fear,
For she'll be your love and your joy and your dear;
Yes, she'll be your love and your joy and your dear,
And she'll go a-walking with you anywhere.
7. Oh! madam, I will give thee a cushion full of pins,
To pin up the baby's white musselins,
If you'll be my love, my joy and my dear,
If you'll go a-walking with me anywhere.

8. No, indeed, I won't accept of your cushion full of pins,
To pin up my baby's white musselins,
I won't be your love, nor your joy, nor your dear,
I won't go a-walking with you anywhere.
9. Oh! madam, I will give thee a little greyhound,
Of every hair upon his back 'tis worth a thousand pound,
If you'll be my love, my joy and my dear,
If you'll go a-walking with me anywhere.
10. No indeed I will not accept of your little greyhound,
If every hair upon his back be worth a thousand pound,
I won't be your love, nor your joy, nor your dear,
I won't go a-walking with you anywhere.
11. Old man John, what can the matter be?
You see, I love this lady but she won't love me;
She won't be my love, nor my joy, nor my dear,
She won't go a-walking with me anywhere.
12. Oh! you court her, master, you court her never fear,
For she'll be your love and your joy and your dear;
Yes, she'll be your love and your joy and your dear,
And she'll go a-walking with you anywhere.
13. Oh! madam, I will give to thee the keys of my heart,
To lock it up forever and nevermore depart,
If you'll be my love, my joy and my dear,
If you'll go a-walking with me anywhere.
14. Yes, indeed, I will accept of the keys to thy heart,
I'll lock it up forever and nevermore depart,
For if you'll be my love, my joy and my dear,
Oh! I'll go a-walking with you anywhere.

Notes from HH:

The song differs in tune and words from the Cheshire "I will give you the Keys of Heaven" (English County Songs p. 32). Mrs. Gulliver tells me that at intervals throughout the song, dancing, to the polka step, used to take place. Perhaps these intervals are marked by the chorus, "Old Man John," which would be sung by the dancers and onlookers together or by the onlookers only.