

5

THE WRAGGLE TAGGLE GIPSIES, O!

Collected by CECIL J. SHARP

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first line of music with lyrics: 'There were three gip - sies a - come to my door, And down - stairs ran this a - la - dy, O!'. The second staff contains the second line of music with lyrics: 'The one sang high, and an - oth - er sang low, And the oth - er sang bon - ny, bon - ny Bis - cay, O!'. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Dm, F, Dm, Gm, Dm, A7, Dm.

1 There were three gipsies a-come to my door,
And downstairs ran this a-lady, O!
The one sang high and another sang low,
And the other sang bonny, bonny Biscay, O!

2 She pull'd off her silk finish'd gown,
And put on hose of leather, O!
The ragged, ragged rags about our door,
She's gone with the wrangle taggle gipsies, O!

3 It was late last night, when my lord came home,
Enquiring for his a-lady, O!
The servants said, on ev'ry hand:
She's gone with the wrangle taggle gipsies, O!

4 O, saddle to me my milk white steed,
Go and fetch me my pony, O!
That I may ride and seek my bride,
Who is gone with the wrangle taggle gipsies, O!

5 O he rode high and he rode low,
He rode through woods and copses too,
Until he came to an open field,
And there he espied his a-lady, O!

6 What makes you leave your house and land?
What makes you leave your money, O?
What makes you leave your new wedded lord,
To go with the wrangle taggle gipsies, O?

7 What care I for my house and my land?
What care I for my money, O?
What care I for my new wedded lord?
I'm off with the wrangle taggle gipsies, O!

8 Last night you slept on a goose-feather bed,
With the sheet turn'd down so bravely, O!
And tonight you'll sleep in a cold open field,
Along with the wrangle taggle gipsies, O!

9 What care I for a goose-feather bed,
With the sheet turn'd down so bravely, O?
For tonight I shall sleep in a cold open field,
Along with the wrangle taggle gipsies, O!

NOTE

Compare this song with "The Gipsy Countess" ('Songs of the West,' No 50, 2d ed.) and "The Gipsy" ('A Garland of Country Song,' No. 32). A Scottish version of the words is in Ramsay's 'Tea-Table Miscellany' (volume iv); see also "Gipsie Laddie," in Herd's 'Ancient and Modern Scottish Songs' (volume ii, p. 95, ed. 1791). In Finlay's 'Scottish Ballads' (1808) the ballad appears as "Johnnie Faa," and in Chambers's 'Picture of Scotland,' a valiant effort is made, after the manner of Scottish commentators, to provide the story with a historical foundation.

The tune is in the Aeolian mode. I have noted no less than eighteen variants.